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WILL GOOD FARMING PAY?

This is a question which has engaged the attention of agriculturists and others in an unusual degree for a year or two past. Tradesmen, mechanics, and professional men, owing to financial revulsions, hard times, &c. have been turning their attention, in a greater or less degree, towards farming in one or more of its departments, in the hope of finding something more tangible and certain, less fluctuating, less dependent upon casualties and circumstances, and less harrassing to the mind. Many, sickened with the perplexities, uncertainties and losses of trade, have turned, for the more quiet and serene enjoyment of life, to the cultivation of the soil. Many such, have invested their all in land, calculating, too extravagantly sometimes, on the pleasures and profits of rural life. Many, as might be expected, have been, to a degree, disappointed. Many others, looking in the same direction, perhaps aware of such disappointments by others, and with the calculating habits to which they have been accustomed, have been inquiring whether good farming will pay.

The question has been often asked and variously answered. Many who have been long years engaged in farming, have been free to say that they have found it a hard and up-hill business. There have been, of course, many instances of failure:—and many prominent instances have been cited in which men have begun with little or nothing, and have amassed competence and even great wealth.

In farming, as in all other occupations, there are many circumstances which contribute to disappointments and partial failures. There may be poor soil, or soil poorly adapted to the purpose desired. There will be occasionally bad weather and unfavorable seasons to occasion loss and disappointment. The farmer often lacks the necessary knowledge of the principles he has to deal with, or he lacks experience, or often both. He *very often* lacks the necessary capital for successful farming. But, what if there are a few failures, easily traceable to legitimate and generally avoidable causes; or even if the majority fail in farming or find it a hard business—does it afford good reason for calling in question the profitableness of good farming? Is not such at least equally the case with all other trades, arts, or professions?—When we reflect that agriculture is the basis of general prosperity—the foundation upon which rests mainly the success of all other occupations, is it not somewhat absurd to suppose that it is an unprofitable calling?

It was Daniel Webster who said that "Agriculture feeds us; in a great measure it clothes

us; without it we could not have manufactures, and we should not have commerce; they will stand together; but they will stand together like pillars, the largest in the centre, and that is agriculture."

Surely, if good farming is not profitable, the great statesman committed a grave error in his estimate of its importance, making it the great central pillar. But it is self evident that his estimate is correct. Yet, the question at the head of this article has been discussed at considerable length by the agricultural press within the past year, and at the agricultural discussion held at the New York State Fair recently, the subject was, "The agriculture of New York —does it afford a fair compensation for the capital and labor employed."

Many interesting facts were elicited. A. B. Conger, the chairman of the meeting (as reported in the *Country Gentleman*), "remarked as a summary of the whole subject, that although many individuals of energy and judgment could run in debt for land and pay for it in the products, yet, that generally speaking, farming, to prove successful, required a certain amount of capital to carry it on; if this were insufficient, one must expect all the penalties and difficulties resulting from a want of capital in any other case. A most important consideration in any business, is its permanence and security —a business which farming eminently possesses. A person, residing in the city of Boston, had kept, during a long life, a list of all such has had pursued trade; and he had found that out of every hundred so engaged, ninety-seven had failed—and of the remaining three per cent. a small portion only continued to hold their means to the end of life. There are also certain failures in bad seasons in farming, but we must balance the cases and take the average. The owners of real estate in the city of New York, after paying all the taxes, do not generally receive more than three and a half per cent.; and if five per cent is obtained as an average from farming (whether all or a part of this be expended in improving and increasing the value of the land), he proposed as a question for the votes of the members present, that this be regarded as paying a fair compensation. He alluded to the estimate presented by Ezra Cornell, where the products of the $13,000,000 invested, were over $2,700,000, and said that even admitting $1,700,000 were consumed for labor, taxes and all contingencies and errors, it would still leave $1,000,000 as the interest on $13,000,000, or over seven per cent. He stated, that in England a capital of $10,000, was required to stock, manure, and carry on a farm of 150 acres; and that there, where there is capital enough, farming proves very profitable. It is the improved farming that has brought the rental up from one shilling to three pounds ($15) per acre.—Farmers here do not use capital enough. He made the following proposition, which was adopted by the meeting without a dissenting voice, viz: That the agriculture of the State of New York, when pursued in accordance with the rules which govern business operations, and with the light which science and practice throws upon it, pays a fair compensation for the capital invested."

JAPANESE WHEAT.

Ed. Valley Farmer: In the Feb. number of the *Valley Farmer*, page 63, is a brief notice of "a new commodity," called Japanese Wheat, and in the *St. Louis Herald* I noticed the circulation of a printed sheet, calling the attention of farmers to this new grain, as producing an excellent flour, and making grain yielding 300 bushels to the acre.

Through the kindness of Mr. Koenig, of Jno. Garnett & Co., I obtained a small quantity of this wheat, the grain about the size of Hungarian, which I planted, and desire to furnish you with the result.

On the 5th of June I planted 20 grains (1 scruple), in drills about 8 inches apart, and the plants about 4 inches apart; gave it no culture; cut it on the 5th of Sept.; weighed it on the 25th, and found grain 1 lb. 13½ ozs., fodder 4 lbs. 12 ozs., chaff 6½ ozs. The weight per bush. 48 lbs. The rate per acre would be as follows: grain 93 bushels of 48 lbs.; fodder 11.495 lbs.; dried or weighed in the ear 16.940 lbs.; giving an absolute increase over the quantity planted of seed 708 times its own weight, or in grain and fodder 1416 times its weight. I let it stand till the 5th, but it might have been cut earlier, and if for fodder alone, much earlier. The fodder is preferred by horses and cattle to corn fodder or hay. While the ear was quite ripe, the stalk was green and leafy to the ground. Were I going to cultivate this grain, I think I could increase the quantity considerably, as there was no fancy culture or extra care.

The soil was good, about five years cleared, in a small valley. The grain stood the drouth well. The stalk is about 4½ feet high, about ⅜ of an inch thick at the ground; very leafy, and the head stands upon a clear stem about 12 inches long; the whole plant is very handsome.

From all that I have seen of it, I conclude it may be found a valuable forage plant; may make a good upland hay, and be found valuable as an annual grass; but as a bread-making plant rank no higher than Hungarian grass—and the rates asked for it this spring were certainly extortionate. Trusting this will give your readers a clear conception of Japanese wheat, I am, sir, yours truly,

St. Louis Co. Mo. WM. MUIR.

Farmers' Neighborhood Clubs.

These have for their object, discussion on agricultural topics, and eliciting the results of the experience of its members in farming, rearing stock, &c. These clubs have long been in existence in the Eastern States, and here and there in the Western States, and even in our own for some years. The beneficial results growing out of such organizations, where they are well conducted and regularly attended, are not properly appreciated by our farmers; if they were, they would as soon think of dispensing with their schools, as fail to enjoy the advantages of these clubs. Who that reads the discussions of the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, does so without profit? It would require a much longer letter than I now propose to send you, to enumerate all the advantages of these organizations, but I will give a few of them:

1. By frequently meeting together, it promotes neighborhood sociability, and serves to unite all its members for mutual protection in all matters pertaining to their common interests. In union there is wisdom as well as strength. Divided in interest for want of a common understanding, our farmers are more apt to be imposed upon in every way than almost any other class of community.

2. A comparison of experience in regard to farming operations will lead to the adoption of the best system.

3. In regard to experiments to decide doubts, or to obtain further information for improvement, by each member testing a different mode of cultivation, feeding stock, &c., results will be obtained in one season, which would require years to accomplish, if pursued by one member alone.

4. By uniting their means, valuable and expensive animals may be purchased and used in common by the members, which could not be had otherwise; also for the purchase of expensive farming implements and machinery, which could be used by all; also for the introduction of seeds, &c., from a long distance, which it may be desirable to introduce for trial.

5. A valuable agricultural library, composed of books and papers, could thus be obtained for the use of the club, at an expense of not over a dollar a year to each member.

6. By the annual exhibition by each member of the products of the farm or of the household, accompanied with the details of the mode of production or manufacture, much valuable information would be elicited.

7. The annual deposit of all such products, especially of seeds, properly labelled, with the name of the variety, when grown, time of ripening, product per acre, the name of the party producing it, &c. would be valuable for comparison with other specimens of the same and other varieties, as well as with those produced in future years. Improvements, if any, could thus be satisfactorily ascertained from year to year. [Seeds should be preserved in glass bottles, and all deposited with the Secretary.]

8. No other organization has the power to secure so hearty, healthy, lively and profitable interest in all matters pertaining to husbandry. They are the props of the County Agricultural Societies; and where they do not exist and flourish, County Societies and all other Agricultural organizations linger, and prove unsatisfactory.

The places for the meetings of these clubs, I presume would most generally be in the district school houses. As there should be in many instances more than one club in each school district, the meetings might, in such case, interfere. In this event, the dwellings of the members could very appropriately, and I have no doubt more profitably, be used alternately.—I say more profitably, because in that case the wives and daughters of the members could more conveniently participate in these meetings, and thus extend that neighborhood sociability so desirable in all communities. If they do not feel interested in the topics of the club, there are many matters connected with household duties which they might discuss with profit to each other. If the husband takes pride in producing the best, his wife and daughter should take a like pride in preparing it for the table in the most agreeable, economical and wholesome dishes. Many a family jar would be avoided if the food was prepared with reference to its more easy digestion. There is as much to be learned by our women (I regret to say) in this regard, as by our farmers in agriculture, and they should not hesitate a moment, but consider it a solemn duty to embrace every opportunity which may tend to perfect themselves in their domestic institutions. This is one of woman's rights which is sadly neglected by many of them, and one which we poor men, who are so dependent upon them for most of our comforts in this world, care not how soon is more generally assumed.

CONSTITUTION OR FORM OF ORGANIZATION FOR FARMERS' CLUBS.

To facilitate the organization of Farmers' Clubs, the following simple Constitution (if it can be dignified by that name) is offered for the consideration of those about forming them. In the starting, some such form is perhaps best, but the fewer and more simple the laws the better. The Chairman and Secretary are the only important officers generally, and the latter may be Treasurer also, if the funds are no larger than is usually the case.

Article 1. This club—styled the ——— Farmers' Club—is established for the collection and dissemination of agricultural information among its members.

Art. 2. The officers shall be, a President, Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Committee consisting of three persons. The President shall be the member at whose house the club meets, or may be elected at each regular meeting of the club. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee shall be elected annually by ballot, and all officers continue in office until a new election is made.

Art. 3. New members shall be elected by a two-third vote, and admitted by the payment of

Art. 4. The meetings of the Club shall be held (weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly,) at such place as may be designated by the Executive Committee, who shall also propose the order of business, subjects for discussion, &c. unless the Club otherwise directs.

Rule—No member may speak more than ten minutes at once, nor more than fifteen minutes in all, nor more than three times upon any one subject, except by permission of the Club.

MIXED HUSBANDRY.

Much has been said in agricultural papers of late, in regard to mixed husbandry, as being the true system of farm management. The term is understood to mean a system of farming which embraces several, if not most of the leading branches of agriculture as grand objects of income, in contradistinction to that kind of farming which depends on one or two branches only as chief sources of revenue. Most of our farming is somewhat of a mixed character; much of it "a good deal mixed," in the doubtful sense of common parlance.

The great crop of the West is corn. This is chiefly fed to hogs, and in that shape marketed, constituting the grand source of revenue among Western farmers. Next in magnitude is the wheat crop. Comparatively very few, except in certain localities, turn their attention in a proper manner to stock raising in any of its departments.

In the present prevalent system of farm management, it is believed a great error is committed. Wherever farmers make a speciality of a certain crop, the tendency seems to be to deterioration of soil and eventual failure. Long continued and equable prosperity does not seem to have been the lot of such farmers. The older tobacco growing regions, and many of the older wheat growing regions, may be cited as examples. Individual examples of a more palpable character, may be found probably within the observation of most farmers. A more mixed system of farming is much better economy, and seems to be more in harmony with the order of nature, inasmuch as one branch often depends greatly upon, and aids in supporting another. All crops are more or less precarious. If we depend upon one only, and that fails, our main resource is cut off. If we depend upon corn, and a wet season occurs, our crop is likely to be very small, and we make no money. If, at the same time we possess a herd of choice cattle, the wet weather favors the growth of grass and various other forage crops, our cattle will be prosperous and yield a good income.

Continual cropping sooner or later exhausts the soil, so that it will no longer yield remunerative crops, unless we possess, and use at the same time, the means of keeping up its fertility. Such means can only be economically found in keeping the various kinds of farm stock, and that of good quality. The stock is needed to consume the coarse grain and fodder, the cornstalks, straw, etc., converting them into manure —the means of increased and continued fertility. This is the grand secret of success in raising good crops, restoring worn-out soil, and keeping the farm and the farmer in a prosperous condition. Raising good stock and producing good crops, go hand in hand, and the first will rarely be seen without the latter.

The common, deteriorated stock of the country will not answer the purposes of good farming. Continued careless breeding and poor keeping, has produced animals ill-shapen, rawboned, deficient in vital force and vigor. The difference between these, and even grades of superior stock, is so palpable, as to attract the notice of every observer. When seen in the same pasture, having the same advantages, the superior condition and appearance of the grade is quite marked. For beef or work, the Durhams, Herefords or Devons, are admirable stock. For the dairy, the Ayrshires or Alderneys are superior. Very many of our native cows are excellent milkers. With good management, particularly the requisite care in the choice of breeding animals, our native stock may be made very good indeed for the dairy.—Grades of either of the above mentioned breeds are also very good for dairy purposes; and this is one branch of farming that is sadly neglected throughout the West. It is very profitable at the East, and there is no good reason why it should not be equally so here, at least on all the hill lands of the West, where blue grass and white clover seem to be native. The West is largely supplied with cheese and even butter from Ohio and New York State. This is not as it should be.

Sheep husbandry is another item of farming

very much neglected throughout nearly the entire West. Those who have engaged in it judiciously, have found it very profitable, probably more so than any other one branch of farming. In most of our localities, sheep are remarkably healthy, much more so than in many eastern localities where they are extensively kept. They are easily kept, will make a good living, and thrive where other stock would not, and they assist greatly in improving and enriching the land. If farmers would kill off all worthless dogs, and keep more sheep, the country as well as the pockets of individuals would be greatly enriched. The subject is deserving of early attention and encouragement by the Legislatures.

The one idea, "hog and hominy" kind of farming, so prevalent throughout the West, would be vastly more profitable if more attention was paid to keeping better breeds of hogs, or even to improving the common native breeds. Very many farmers object to many of the finer breeds, because, they say, they are too tender. They want hogs that will shift for themselves, pick their own living chiefly, summer and winter. Such farmers are not likely to pay much attention to the choice of breeding animals, or to their age or condition. Consequently we see many sickly looking or deformed hogs. It is not unusual, on some farms, to see two or three pigs in a litter going on three legs and dragging the other. A hog is a hog, with such farmers, and, judging from their practice, the difference between a good one and a bad one is not of consequence enough to merit much attention.—Stock hogs are too often half starved and half frozen through the winter, and those that survive often come out so spring poor that they do not recover until they are fed about twice their value in corn, and then the pork is scarcely fit to eat as compared with that of the finer breeds. The pork of the Suffolk, for instance, is so greatly superior, they keep so easily and fatten so readily at any age, that it may well be questioned whether it is not more profitable to keep such hogs and give them the necessary shelter and care, than it is to keep so many of the kind appropriately known as "Landpikes." There is a saying, that "whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." Fine, well-formed, sleek-looking animals, are very agreeable to the sight, while the coarse, big-headed, long-jawed, raw-boned hogs, so frequently seen, must be an eye-sore to any good farmer.

It may be thought by some that the present times are too hard to think of making improvements in farm management. Not so. It is a good time to *think* of these matters, to form plans for the future, and carry them out as far as possible. It may be questioned whether it will not always be hard times with some farmers until they effect an improvement in their modes of farming—whether many are not keeping a kind of stock, and keeping it in such a way as to be annually losing money by it. The will is oftener lacking than the means, for making improvements. Where the will exists, and the importance is understood, the means will generally soon be found.

More attention to a greater variety of crops, and particularly to a greater variety of, and better stock, it is believed would effect a very great improvement in our farming. Every farmer, however, should be aware of the kind of crops and stock to which his farm is best adapted.

CULTURE OF THE OSIER WILLOW.

Having lately seen several inquiries respecting the Osier Willow and its culture, and being asked almost daily, "Do you think it will pay?" I have concluded to send you my experience in its cultivation:

Three years ago this spring, after corn planting, I set two acres of the French Osiers, placing them in rows three feet apart, at a distance of one foot from each other. The first year I cultivated and hoed the same as corn, and many of the shoots attained the hight of four feet.—The next spring I cut them, but having no machine for peeling, lost the crop, except a few used for sets. Last spring I cut and commenced peeling by hand, which I found rather an uphill business, and almost resolved to abandon their culture, if they must be peeled in that way. About this time a machine was invented for peeling willows. I immediately procured one, which worked to my entire satisfaction, and with it finished peeling my crop, which, when ready for market, including some sold for sets, a little exceeded a ton. These I shipped to a commission merchant in New York and received for them $110 per ton.

This year I have a much heavier crop. For an experiment I have weighed those cut from twelve stools, which amount to eighteen pounds. I have found in peeling and drying, they waste nearly one-half. The produce of an acre stands thus:

14,520 stools per acre, 1½ lbs. each,	21,780 lbs.	
Ready for market, 5½ tons, $110 ℔ ton,		$605.00
Cost of cutting ℔ acre,		$6.00
Cost of peeling ℔ ton, $7,		38.00
Binding and taking to market, $5 ℔ ton, ...		27.00
Total,		$72.00

Deducting expenses, this leaves a profit per acre of, $533. According to directions received at the time I planted, I have not cultivated mine since the first year, but think they should

be cultivated once every spring, to loosen the soil and keep them free from weeds and grass. I am confident that any one that has suitable ground, and will bestow proper cultivation, can realize this amount from an acre of willows, perhaps more. After reading these facts, I think no one can hesitate how to answer the query, "Will it pay?"—[*W. P. Rupert, in Rural New Yorker.*

BOOTS MADE WATER-PROOF.

Ed. Valley Farmer: As a great deal of sickness is caused by having wet, cold feet, and as it is a very easy matter to have boots perfectly water-proof, so that the feet may be kept quite dry, I will give you a certain recipe which I picked up many years ago, and have tried it with the best results.

Take an equal quantity, by weight, of beef tallow and rosin; put them into a vessel, over the fire, and let them melt and mix. Warm the boots, and apply the mixture in a hot state with a painter's brush, until the leather will take in no more. This should be applied to the soles as well as the upper leather. The soles will last much longer, and moisture cannot be absorbed after the application. Tallow applied alone, will cause the stitching and the leather to rot, but by the mixing in of rosin, an antiseptic quality is given, which will not only prevent the rotting but preserve the leather.

how to polish the boots.

To one ounce of beeswax, add one ounce of spirits of turpentine, and a teaspoonful of lamp black, and dissolve and mix the ingredients.—A few days after the application of the tallow, &c., rub over them the last named mixture, but not before the fire. The boots will shine like a mirror. The waxen coat will also assist in shedding the wet.

If the readers of the *Valley Farmer* will try these recipes, they will say that they are worth five dollars a year to each of them. They are worth more than that sum to me. ***

St. Clair Co. Ills.

When to Apply Lime.—A Chester County, Pa. correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph*, says his method is to apply lime to the grass during the fall or spring, after the wheat is taken off, at the rate of one hundred bushels of air or water slaked lime per acre. He generally commences spreading about the end of October or beginning of November, when he has time. He usually limes one field every year, and as his farm is laid off into eleven fields, all the land receives a dressing of lime every eleven years. He seems to be of the opinion that it would be better to apply it oftener, and in smaller doses, but offers no facts in favor of this view.

An Easy Way to Get Wild Land into Grass.

There are occasionally, here and there about the country, pieces of new land, some of them in the process of clearing and others from a want of that process, fast growing up to a waste of of bushes and weeds. Quite too large a share of them are thus left by the owners to work out their own redemption in a most unprofitable manner. Having been concerned in the clearing up of about fifty acres of new land within the past ten years, some portions of which were brought immediately from the leafy forest to good pasturage, while other portions were some years in a transition state of bush and brier before that result was accomplished, and then only by much labor, perhaps the results of my experience may be of interest to those having such lands.

clearing new lands.

The secret of success in this, consists in making it a quick job. When the job of cutting down timber is commenced, it should be drove along and completed by the first of June following. All bushes should be cut, those less than three inches in diameter at the surface of the ground. The brush should be piled, and during the dryest part of August they should be burned. The fire will then (unless it should be a very wet season) make a clean sweep, leaving the ground bare and black; scattering brush and sticks not consumed, should be raked together and burned, and the ground will then be in a condition to sow, either with grass seed alone, or with grass seed and wheat. I have usually sown with wheat, and got a good crop if sown in season. After sowing the wheat, the ground should be harrowed with a heavy new land drag, at least four times. A new land drag is simply a three-cornered harrow, made like the letter V, with a light cross-piece between the open ends to stay them. It has nine steel-pointed teeth, one inch and a quarter square, and fifteen inches long. The two beams or sides of the drag should be at least six inches square. After dragging the last time, the piece may be gone over with a heavy brush, with decided advantage. If the ground is wet and inclined to heave in winter, clover seed should be sown the following spring on the late snows. A top-dressing of plaster should be given, and a good catch and heavy crop of grass is certain.

I have never known new land, thus managed, to become infested with bushes or briers, excepting sprouts from stumps, and those can easily be cut; while, on the other hand, pieces that lie several years before being burned and sowed, get considerably rooted over with wild grass and weeds, and a good burn cannot be got; the harrow will not do good execution in the sod that is formed; grass seed has a poor chance to germinate amid the general riot of weeds and briers that have been permitted to exercise squatter sovereignty on the piece.

UNPROFITABLE FARMING.

There is a class of farmers, sufficiently large to be called respectable, if numbers can command respect, who are distinguished by the contempt in which they hold, what they are pleased to denominate, *book farming*. They speak sneeringly of farmers who read agricultural books or journals as an assistance in their farm management, or for the purpose of gaining more knowledge of their business. As farmers of this class do not practically show or admit that there has been any improvement in farming, except, perhaps, in the way of a few labor-saving machines, we may legitimately conclude that they believe that farming, unlike any other business, arrived at perfection centuries ago. In fact, so far as their farming is concerned, they are the veriest old fogies that we have amongst us. Yet, not a few of them are men of intelligence and high standing in community. Such of them as are able to give their sons a good education, almost invariably set them up in some of the learned professions, so called, or in mercantile pursuits. Hence, we may conclude again, that they believe farming to be a hard business, uninteresting and unprofitable.

Five out of six of this class of farmers will tell you that farming does not pay. The longer they occupy their farms, the less it pays. While taking all they can from their land, they generally forget that the land needs feeding. They are only induced to manure, when they find the land will no longer produce fair crops—and sometimes not even then. The majority of such farmers pursue their business to make money; and many of them, by hard work, close shaving, and skinning the land, *do* make money; which they probably loan on the most favorable terms and most approved security, resting somewhat from their labors on the farm, leaving the work of regenerating it to posterity, or their more progressive successors.

The system of routine farming followed by the *anti-book farmers*, and which they learnt from their fathers, although it may produce money profit for a time, is in the true sense of the word unprofitable. There is a downward tendency about it which must eventually lead to impoverishment, to be felt severely by the country as well as by individuals. It is no wonder that the sons acquire a distaste for the farm, forsaking it whenever they can, for the hazards, uncertainties, and temptations of the professions, of trade, railroading, etc.; or that the daughters scarcely think they are doing well unless they can marry some one besides a common farmer.

The farmer who does not judiciously combine such of the various branches of husbandry as his farm is adapted to, and as will work together for profit and improvement, is generally farming unprofitably. He who keeps a poor quality of stock, and allows it to degenerate from year to year, is farming unprofitably. He who keeps a large quantity of stock, and neglects it, allowing it to run at large; many to go astray, get stolen or killed, or to depredate upon neighbors; and who keeps the same through the winter without suitable shelter, and in such way as to lose their manure, is probably farming unprofitably. He who does not keep all his stock in a constantly thriving condition, and his farm in a state of improved culture and fertility, is certainly deficient in one of the most important principles of profitable farming. He who attempts to cultivate twice as much land as he has the means and ability to cultivate thoroughly and well, generally loses money in more ways than one. He who allows his farm implements to lay out about his fields or yards, exposed to the weather, may put down a very large item on the side of unprofitable farming. He who allows himself to be seduced from the affairs of his farm to attend political meetings, torch-light processions, and similar gatherings, is generally farming unprofitably, besides being the dupe of scheming politicians, with whom the country has been so deplorably cursed. He who manages his farm affairs in such a way that his sons and his daughters grow up with a disgust for the farm and its associations—a dislike for their rural homes, susceptible of being the happiest homes on earth beyond all comparison—is surely not farming in the most profitable manner. There are many other marks of unprofitable farming which might be cited, but enough for the present.

PROFITABLE FARMING.

After reviewing the points of unprofitable farming, it is easy to infer from the reverse of the case, in many particulars, at least, what constitutes profitable farming. There are farmers, very few in some places, comparatively few perhaps in all, who are an honor to their business, who appreciate its importance and its merits, and are satisfied with its profits. These men are the "salt of the earth" among farmers. They enjoy more of life, and enjoy it better, than any other class of farmers—and yet they do not live unto themselves entirely, for their influence upon the farming interest and the prosperity of the country is of the highest importance. Their influence, by precept and ex-

ample, upon their old fogy neighbors, is of the most salutary character. They are gradually convincing them, in the only way most of them can be convinced—by having it worked out under their own eyes—that improved farming is something better than a means of sinking money.

The best of all farmers are those who farm for the love of it; whose aim it is to raise the best of all kinds of crops, and keep the best kinds of stock, at the same time keeping their soils in an improving condition; who are so thoroughly imbued with a spirit of agriculture, as to take delight in giving every crop and every animal the very best chance to attain the highest degree of perfection; who find satisfaction in doing all things well, and take pleasure in the life-giving and health-sustaining duties of the farm; who have not yet learnt all there is to be learnt of value about farming, but are continually improving in knowledge by means of thought, study, and facts which come within their own observation, or are obtained from their neighbors, or books or papers: in short, who find something in farming besides mere drudgery for the purpose of accumulating a few rusty dollars. Farming which does not in some degree approach this standard, is demoralizing. There is a downward tendency about it, mentally, morally, and practically.

We maintain that such kind of farming pays —aye, doubly pays. It pays in the consciousness of having acted well our part; in the self-approval which always follows well doing; in the satisfaction and pleasure which every true man must feel in seeing everything under his care in a healthy, thriving, and prosperous condition. It pays in the delight which every such farmer must feel in constantly developing new ideas, new facts, and new improvements; in finding in his business an interesting field for calling into action all the faculties and resources of his mind; in the fact that he is, himself, continually improving in useful knowledge, and is educating his sons in the knowledge of one of the most honorable and best of earthly occupations. How great the contrast between the life of such a farmer, and the dull, monotonous, and even brutalizing life and labor of the old fogy farmer.

Secondly, good farming, in the very nature of things, pays best in the long run, in cash profit. The farmer may sometimes invest all his profits in improving the quality of his stock or the condition of his soil; but it is far better than so much money invested in stocks or deposited in bank, and will return a surer and better interest. Evidence of the correctness of our position in regard to cash profits may be found in individual instances in numerous places, and in the fact that wherever good farming is most prevalent, the country is most prosperous and flourishing, and land is most valuable.

IMPROVED FARMING.

Improved farming is what we need, and what all good farmers, and all legislators who understand the necessities and appreciate the welfare of the country, will endeavor to encourage and promote. This is what the agricultural press has been, and is, assiduously laboring for. The first agricultural journal started in this country, was established in 1819, and is still alive and prosperous. Notwithstanding the continued outcry against book farming and agricultural papers, the latter have steadily increased in number, amid the sneers of opponents, until we now have between sixty and seventy. No one who has been cognizant of farming affairs for the past twenty years, will deny that there have been rapid strides in the way of improvement. Farmers have begun to feel the need of agricultural schools and colleges, and a few have been established. These will feel severely the pressure of national difficulties. A few agricultural papers have already succumbed to the pressure of the times. This is to be deplored, and if possible should be prevented. Farmers and others, who are most interested, should make all consistent sacrifices in order that the car of agricultural progress be not allowed to retrograde. Retarded it will be, unavoidably; but we should make extra efforts, not only to hold fast all that we have gained, but to make as much advance as possible. We should do this as well for individual as the public good. By so doing we will the more easily be able to surmount the pressure and extra expenses of the times. The agricultural papers should be sustained, and should be read with an increased desire to profit by the instructions, the hints, and the facts which they contain. Facts are of priceless value to farmers, and they should always be eager to acquire and ready to communicate them. Especially, the agricultural colleges, so recently and hopefully inaugurated, should by all means be prevented from dying for lack of support.

Farming is not the simple business that many have supposed, requiring in those who pursue it just knowledge enough to read a political newspaper, to count a herd of swine, or to go in the house when it rains. To be a successful, thor-

ough, and accomplished farmer, requires varied acquirements; a combination of knowledge, good judgment and ability quite equal to any, and much greater than most occupations. To be successful for a lengthy period, the farmer cannot be the producer of one or two articles only; he must adopt a mixed husbandry. The different varieties of grains, fruits, and vegetables, which he should produce, are quite numerous and various, each having its special requirements and modes of management. To produce these, and continue the fertility of his soil, he must also make beef and pork, cheese and butter, or mutton and wool, To dispose of all these in the best manner, at the best time, and for the best prices, requires no little commercial ability. To produce them, he needs a knowledge of animal and vegetable physiology, because these sciences give him an acquaintance with the laws by which he must be governed to insure success. Chemistry, geology, zoology, and entomology, are very useful to the farmer.

Those who think that the farmer does not need a liberal education, and that his business does not afford scope for knowledge and ability, are proper subjects for pity. Wherever farmers entertain such an erroneous opinion of their calling, there is an end to all improvement and all desire for it. He who has farmed longest and best, is likely to tell you that he has not yet learned the rudiments. Something new is continually arising. It is an absurdity for a farmer to say that he knows all about the business, and does not need the help of books and papers. Such perfection does not belong to humanity.

A Good Smokehouse.—We lately observed a well-planned smokehouse on the premises of a good farmer, worthy of a brief description. It was about six feet square, the lower half built of brick, furnished with an iron-lined door, and serving as an ash house, and place for the fire. The upper part about four feet high, besides the ascent of the roof, was made of wood. It was separated from the lower part by scantling joists, a space of two or three inches between them, through which smoke and air could freely pass, but sufficient to catch any ham that might accidentally fall, and thus save it from the fire.—The upper part, as well as the lower, was entered by a door from the outside; this upper door may be kept locked, except when admitting or withdrawing hams; but the lower may be left unlocked, for the hired man to build fires, without any danger of the contents above being stolen, as the thief cannot pass through the openings between the joists.—[*Co. Gent.*

LOOMS AND SPINNING WHEELS.

Ed. Valley Farmer: The great scarcity of money consequent on the troubles of the country, and the scant supply of a good article of woolen manufactured goods, has led many of the farming community, who have not been in the habit of making their cloth, to consider the matter; and I believe you would greatly oblige your patrons if you would devote a small space in your very deserving periodical to this subject.

The idea has long prevailed that it is cheaper to buy than to manufacture at home, consequently we have been selling our wool to the factories, and then buying the cloth from them at an enormous profit in their favor. Our present condition proves, I think, the fallacy of such a course, and I believe there is almost a universal cry among our women for looms and spinning wheels.

There was a loom on exhibition at your fair in 1859, which was very much admired, and was thought to be a great improvement on the old-fashioned loom. I have not heard from it since the fair, and do not remember the inventor's name. By giving information through your paper, of the best improved hand looms, and where they can be had, you will confer a favor on many of your readers. N. J. S.

Miami, Mo., Oct. 20th, 1861.

Our correspondent's suggestions shall have our attention in future numbers. We recollect the hand loom he refers to, which was exhibited at the St. Louis Fair in 1859. It appeared to be an excellent weaving apparatus. It was very simple, and easily and rapidly worked.—The price was low—we believe thirty or forty dollars, only. We will obtain full particulars about this loom for our next number. We have heard of some other inventions of hand looms, said to be very simple, cheap and efficient. If we can manufacture our goods at home, it will be better than paying exorbitant prices for them—and especially if we have not the money to buy them with.

Naked or Bald Barley.—Mr. Richard T. Hathaway, of New Bedford, has left at this office a very handsome sample of bald barley.—The seed came from California five years ago, and Mr. H. has cultivated it three seasons with great success. He obtained this year at the rate of thirty bushels to the acre, and it weighs sixty-two pounds to the bushel. The crop has always been free from blight or rust. Some heads which accompanied the sample left, are of a bright yellow color, two-rowed, and every grain large and plump. Mr. H. states that he has tried it side by side with common barley,

and that the bald kind yielded most, even by measure—the weight per bushel being upwards of twenty pounds greater.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

1. Pick the ears that set nearest to the ground.

2. Those ears having a short foot-stalk.

3. From stalks having the most ears. Generally but one ear on a stalk is proper for seed, and that usually the second ear. If the first ear is as good, take that.

4. Never take from a stalk having but one ear, if stalks can be found having two or more ears.

5. Always take ears that are filled out full to the end, and that run beyond the husk, if such can be had.

6. Lay up four or five times as much as will probably be wanted.

7. When you come to plant, before shelling break every ear and see if the pith of the cob is dried up and hollow; for if it is not, the corn is not fully ripe. Then shell off the butt and tip till you come to the long grains.

If farmers will follow this course yearly, the crop may be greatly increased. Great crops can never be raised from stalks having but one ear. The carelessness of farmers in selecting seed corn, is one great cause why corn crops are generally of so little profit. So far as I know, the general practice of farmers in selecting seed corn, is to take the best and fairest ears in the pile, without knowing if there were one or more ears on a stalk, and most likely there was but one.—[*Boston Cultivator.*

HOGS IN MEADOWS.

David Strawn writes thus to the *Prairie Farmer*: "I notice in the papers complaints of grubs and other worms working under the top of the sod, destroying the grass, etc. All true. There are large numbers of insects in our land that destroy all kinds of crops.

Now for a remedy. Put another board along the bottom of your fences, and turn in your hogs as soon as the hay is out of the way, and keep them there till the first of April. If they root the ground all over, be thankful for their industry. They never root in vain. They are constantly eating worms, bugs, mice, moles, and all things that destroy the crops.

Several years ago I commenced pasturing with hogs a meadow that was well set with timothy and clover. They seemed to root the ground completely over the first year. The second year they rooted but little, and since that time have not broken the sod but very little. The result of this was, the grass very soon replaced itself, and has been a better growth, and continued to grow better through dry seasons than any meadow I ever saw that has not been purified by hogs.

It is no wonder that meadows do not produce when the sod is cut loose by worms. In May and June they dry up and the grass dies."

Causes of Fertility in Soils.

In a letter to the New York Farmers' Club, Prof. S. W. Johnson, of Yale College, says:

The labors of chemists to discover positively all the causes of the fertility of soils, have not yet met with conclusive success. The mechanical structure of the soil is of primary importance. Naked rocks grow lichens. The same rock, crushed into coarse grains, grows a much higher order of vegetable—pulverized fine, the cereals grow in it. Geology, chemistry, botany, physiology, meteorology, mechanics, hydro-dynamics, heat, light, and electricity, are all intimately combined in the grand process of vegetation. There are sandy soils in our Eastern States, which, without manure, yield meagre crops of rye and buckwheat; but there are sandy soils in Ohio, which, without manure, yield on an average eighty bushels of Indian corn an acre, and have yielded it for twenty to fifty years in unbroken succession, the ingredients of these soils being, by chemical analysis, the same. At present no difference is known between them, except the coarseness of the particles—the first being coarse, while the Ohio sand is an exceedingly fine powder. The power of soils to attract and imbibe moisture and oxygen, was well shown by Schubler, of Hoffen, 40 years ago.—Of 13 different soils, quartz sand absorbed in 30 days, 1-1000 parts of oxygen and no moisture, while humus absorbed 13 of oxygen and 120 of moisture.

Deep Plowing.—A recent English writer makes the following sensible remarks: "That land may be injured by deep culture, is a common but a very erroneous opinion. Plowing down good earth and up bad, and letting them remain in that position, must lessen fertility for a time, but that is not deep culture; it is literally exchanging good earth for bad, and is the reason why individuals declare that they have injured their land by deep plowing. Let the nature of the land be what it may, it can be raised to its greatest fertility only by a sufficiently deep pulverization and mixture of the ingredients. Where the sub-soil is of good quality (and in many places it is better than the soil), bring it up at once to the surface. Where deep culture is judiciously executed, in no case does the new earth lessen or destroy the fertility of the old; on the contrary, they improve each other, and constitute a deeper and more productive soil.

Surface Application of Manure.—From the result of various trials, Professor Voelcker seems to lean to the opinion that the spreading of farm-yard compost on the surface of the soil, for even a considerable period before it is plowed in, is by no means so injurious a practice as we have hitherto been led to suppose. He says, "that on all soils with a moderate proportion of clay, no fear need be entertained of valuable fertilizing substances becoming wasted, if the manure cannot be plowed in at once. Fresh, and even well-rotted dung, contains very little free ammonia; and since active fermentation, and with it the further evolution of free am-

monia, is stopped by spreading out the manure on the field, valuable manuring matters cannot escape into the air by adopting this plan." If this is a reasonable conclusion, it goes far to remove our dread of losing, on such soils, the better portions of farm-yard manure by top-dressings. As the season will soon be here when these dressings are commonly applied to grass, it will be useful to remember this fact.—The best time for applying the manure is held, by the great Cheshire grass farmers, to be in the end of September or the beginning of October, particularly in a showery period, as the grass soon covers it, and renders it less liable to be damaged by the sun or drying winds.—[*C. W. Johnson, in Mark Lane Express.*

Action of Salt and Saltpetre on Meat.

The following interesting account of the action of salt and saltpetre on meat will doubtless be new to many of our readers:

The manner in which salt operates in its preservative functions is obvious. Salt, by its strong affinity, in the first place, extracts the juices from the substance of meat in sufficient quantity to form a saturated solution with the water contained in the juice, and the meat then absorbs the saturated brine in the place of the juice extracted by the salt in the first place.—Thus matter, incapable of putrefaction, takes the place of that portion of the meat which is most perishable. Such, however, is not the only office of salt as a means of preserving meat; it also acts by its astringency in contracting the fibres of the muscles, and so excludes the action of air on the interior of the substance of the meat. The last mentioned operation of salt as an antiseptic is evinced by the diminution of the volume of meat to which it is applied.

The astringent action of saltpetre on meat is much greater than that of salt, and thereby renders the meat to which it is applied very hard; but in small quantities it considerably assists the antiseptic action of salt, and it also prevents the destruction of the florid or red color of the meat by the application of salt.—From the foregoing statement of the mode of operation of salt and saltpetre on meat, it will be perceived that the application of these matters deteriorates, in a considerable degree, the nutritive, and, to some extent, the wholesome, qualities of meat; and, therefore, in their use, the quantity applied should be as small as possibly consistent with the perfect preservation of the meat.

In France, as soon as a man has acquired a respectable income, he quits the fields for the town. In England, on the contrary, a man who has made his fortune in any branch of industry, or by whatever means, makes the country his principal residence. The French aristocracy, since the time of Louis XIV, have preserved a never-dying love for town life; while the aristocracy of England, faithful to its interests and traditions, strengthen in the soil, year by year, its seignorial influence. The lord's manor is in the country; it is there where he gives his best entertainments, and receives his friends.

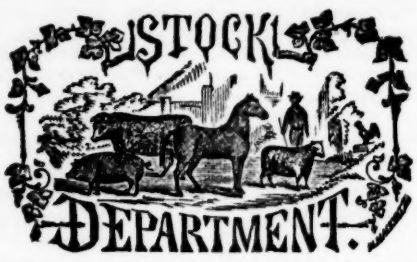
Cutting Timber.—The *Maine Farmer* says, better pay one-half more to have timber cut in summer than in winter. The editor states that he has rails on his fences which were split a few years ago. Those cut late in winter or spring, have become nearly worthless by decay, while those cut in midsummer dried thoroughly and are hard and sound.

The Canada Thistle.—The Canada Thistle, execrable and forever to be detested! hateful to sight or touch, did not come from Canada, but Europe. It has a malignant vitality. Its roots creep under ground, and its seeds multiply and fly endlessly above ground. The vexed farmer has to fight them as one does guerillas, one by one. Linnæus pronounced it the greatest pest of the earth, in Sweden. Dr. Darlington, in his history of weeds, has given to this species the name, cursed thistle. Few botanical terms will be pronounced more heartily. This is the very thistle that came up to punish our first parents. It carries judgment and punishment with it, both to man and beast. To have these thistles on a farm without effort at extirpation, ought to be as disgraceful as to have vermin on the body. Never allow them to come to seed, as they fly upon "the wings of the wind."

Harness Blacking.—Take isinglass, ½ oz.; indigo in fine powder, ¼ oz.; soft soap, 4 ozs.; glue 5 ozs.; logwood, 4 ozs.; vinegar, 2 pints; ground black, ½ oz.; bees-wax 1 oz. Infuse the logwood in vinegar for some time with gentle heat, and when the color is well extracted strain the liquid, and add the other ingredients to it; boil until the glue is dissolved, then put it into stoneware or glass jars. This blacking will be found very convenient for the harness of artillery and other army horses.

Bee Moth Trap.—Take a wooden bucket or other large open vessel, and fill it about two-thirds with water. Then put in a quantity of old honey combs, and set the vessel in the apiary at night near the hives. The bee moths or millers will be attracted by the strong odor arising from the vessel, will drop into the water, and be unable to extricate themselves.

How to Handle Firearms Safely.—When the gun is charged, never allow the lock to be in any other state than at half cock, except at the moment before firing. The reasons are: The lock is so constructed that when at half cock (provided it is good for anything, and no other should ever be used,) it cannot be moved from that point toward the cap to explode it in any possible way. You may strike it violently, and it will not yield until the lock itself breaks in pieces. If, by any accident, it is moved in the opposite direction, it must go back until it is fully cocked, and must remain there until the trigger is touched. If it does not go back to that point, it cannot possibly, in returning, pass the point of its first position—that of half cock—unless the trigger is touched at the moment, which would seldom, if ever happen.



HOG CHOLERA.

We regret to learn that this epidemic prevails to an alarming extent in many parts of the West. We have always regarded the raising and fattening of hogs, one of the most profitable departments of farming. Pork generally commands a remunerative price. The market is never glutted. It is readily disposed of—and the larger the herd, the more eagerly it is sought. Swine are got to market without much difficulty—much more easily than grain and most other farm commodities. The farm is not impoverished as in the production of grain crops, which are sent to market—but the grain is fed out on the farm, to keep it in vitality. In view of these considerations, we have considered the raising of pork, we repeat, a very profitable and a very desirable branch of farming, and when we hear of the alarming fatality that prevails, of the heavy losses that many are sustaining, we feel the necessity of throwing out some remarks relating to the prevention and cure of the disease, for the consideration of our readers.

Why the disease is called the hog cholera, we know not. It is no more related to cholera than consumption is to cholera among the human species. It is a disease of the lungs, and perhaps other internal organs. The lungs become and look like the liver when cut. The air cells become closed. The disease, instead of being the cholera, is pneumonia, and ought to be called by that name. It is a most difficult disease to contend with. A hog is the worst animal in the world to administer medicine to, and especially one that will not eat.—But few that are attacked, ever get well. When the disease gets into a herd, sooner or later every animal, or nearly so, will be attacked. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is one of the most truthful adages that exists. Everything, therefore, that tends to keep hogs in a healthy condition, should be observed. Dry, warm quarters, are especially requisite. We believe the range of the woods is more healthful than being confined in yards and pens. If kept inclosed, or under shelter, they should be kept there constantly. Sleeping in warm quarters, and coming out in the cold winds and storms to eat, will bring on the disease almost certainly. The change of temperature is too great. The hogs, get chilled through, take cold, the lungs become affected, and pneumonia is the result. Hogs are very sensitive to cold and storms. Instinct teaches them to prepare for the storm, by providing a warm, comfortable nest. They predict the approach of a storm as certainly as the barometer indicates it.

We believe the disease is less fatal among swine in poor order than when fat; and poor hogs are not so much pre-disposed to it. We do not pretend to give any reasons for these assertions; but they are the result of our observation, and the experience of those with whom we have conversed.

When the disease gets among a herd, a change of feed sometimes produces a cure. If you have been feeding on one kind of food, change to something entirely different. We have known herds to be seriously attacked that were fed on shorts made into thin slop, cured by being fed on dry corn. At this season of the year, the food should be as concentrated as possible—too much slop will not do—it is cold, and chills the hog. We have heard of cures being effected by changing from corn to ground barley and peas. Good, nutritious food should be given. Salt, sulphur, ashes, stone coal, charcoal, &c. should always be within the reach of swine.

We believe that many of our farmers have been breeding from hogs too nearly related. They have taken no pains to obtain boars not at all related to their breeding sows. The pigs will not be as vigorous and hardy and as capable of resisting disease, when this loose system of breeding is practiced. A change of boars every year or two is indispensable to keeping a healthy, fine herd; and the boar should in no manner be related to the breeding sows. Procure him from the best source. Let him attain full maturity, not less than a year, or a year and a half of age, before being used at all. Those who would adopt this plan would find themselves abundantly rewarded in the end.

In conclusion we will say, if you find one or two of your herd having the veritable hog cholera, no time is to be lost; immediately remove the diseased ones. And if your other hogs are in any condition to be butchered, the sooner it is done the better it will be for you. We know of many who might have saved the loss of hundreds of hogs and thousands of dollars,

had they killed them when the first two or three were attacked. But they procrastinated till it was too late, and the whole herd fell a prey to the disease.

PACKING BUTTER IN FIRKINS.

The following is from a correspondent to the *Country Gentleman:*

I cheerfully comply with your request in giving such information in relation to packing and keeping butter through the summer season as I am competent to do, giving you the method that has proved the most successful with us:

1. In the first place you ask in regard to churning. We use dog power, having the temperature in warm weather about 55° Fah., which gives the butter a good solid consistency.

2. When the butter comes, it is removed and washed with cold ice water until the butter-milk is all removed.

3. It is then salted—about one ounce of salt to a pound of butter—worked in thoroughly, and set in a cool place for twenty-four hours, when it is worked just sufficient to remove all the butter-milk.

4. It is then packed in the firkin and covered tight, so as to exclude the air.

5. When the firkin is filled, then you put a cloth over the butter, put on a good covering of salt, and then pour on water, which makes a brine. We keep it thus covered until it goes to market—it being the only way we could ever keep a dairy perfectly sweet through the season.

These rules strictly observed, I will warrant never to fail, if the butter is properly made.

We use good white oak firkins. The manner of preparing them before putting in the butter—fill them with cold water to soak three or four days; a handful of salt thrown in will make them better. When we get ready to put the butter in the firkin, we rub the inside all over thoroughly with salt, which forms a brine between the firkin and butter.

All the salt used about butter in any form, should be good dairy salt, as there is more or less lime in other salt, which renders it unfit for butter.

Good soft water is also essential, as hard, limey water is very objectionable.

Boiled Corn for Hogs and other Stock.—Wm. Van Loom, writing to the *Prairie Farmer*, says that he has practiced feeding boiled corn to his stock and hogs, and is "satisfied that he saves one half his grain, and gains as much more in time;" that one bushel of corn on the cob, boiled, will produce as much as two fed raw, and in one-half the time. In one experiment he fed three bushels of boiled corn, per day, to twenty-seven hogs, for ten days. The average gain was two pounds per day. He then fed the same lot of hogs on two bushels of raw corn per day for twenty days—they gained a mere trifle over one pound per day. These were small young hogs—larger ones would have fattened better.

EARTH FLOORS FOR COLTS.

Colts should not stand upon plank floors.—Ringbone, spavin, &c., are frequently contracted by colts on account of standing on plank. The earth is the natural floor for the horse. It is moist and soft, and colts do not become lame from standing on it. Many say that you must accustom your colts to stand upon a hard floor, so as to drive upon a hard road—which is nonsense. Box stalls are also preferable for colts. It is tiresome to be tied day and night in the same contracted stall. If you have a box stall, the colt can be turned in, and it can step about as it pleases. Indeed, horses should also be kept in box stalls, and on dry earth floors, and they will last a good deal longer, and be freer from blemishes.

As this is the season for stabling colts, we throw out these suggestions now. Those having plank floors would find it to their interest to substitute earth.

LOCK-JAW.

If a horse has the lock-jaw, take enough blankets to cover his body and neck, with straps and bandages running in various directions; make the blankets bear on the skin in every place; then commence pouring water just as warm as the horse can bear, right over the spinal column, from head to tail, out of a spout about like that of a tea-kettle, until the blankets are thoroughly saturated. Then take two small teacups, with a tablespoonful of Cayenne in one, and a tablespoonful of lobelia in the other; fill the cup of Cayenne with boiling water, and the cup of lobelia with warm water; stir them both well, and when they get nearly cold, pour them both into a little strong bottle, with half a pint of alcohol. Drench the horse with this dose, after he has been under the operation of warm water and blankets ten minutes—and if you fail to loosen his jaws, it will be the first instance on record.

In most cases this dose of medicine will answer very well itself, and so will the warm water operation generally do of itself; but when you combine the two, the jaws must come, if the horse can stand on his feet. When blankets are used, it requires some judgment to get the horse up to the scribe again. Unless the weather is warm, his wet garb should be removed, and a dry one put in its place, and this ought to be removed by degrees as fast as circumstances will allow.—[*Micajah T. Johnson, Field Notes.*

Scours in Lambs—Remedy for.—Take the seed of the common dock; make a strong decoction, sweeten with loaf sugar, add half a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper to a quart. Give to each lamb a wineglassful, three or four times a day, till a cure is effected.

HOW TO RAISE HOGS.

A. G. Mullins, of Kentucky, in a communication to the *Genesee Farmer*, offers the following hints on the raising of hogs:

Say we have a good stock to begin with—a stock that matures early and fattens well. The pigs should come from the middle of March to May. There is a great advantage in pigs coming at this time, as we can graze them through two summers, and have them to keep only through one winter. They come to be of fine size by the second fall or winter. Hogs may be pushed into market younger, but at more expense in grain, and they will be smaller at fattening time, which is a a great disadvantage.

The greatest profit in hogs is in grazing them, and turning them upon grain fields, where they can gather for themselves; and having them large and in good condition at fattening time. The sows and pigs should be kept in good growing condition, by feeding them on Indian corn, or corn meal made into slop. As soon as the clover begins to blossom, or a little before, turn them upon it. Sows and pigs should still be given some grain, while in the clover. Having a field of oats early sown—the size of the field to be in proportion to the number of hogs—and as soon as the oats are ripe, turn the hogs upon them to gather for themselves. To pasture hogs to the best advantage through the summer, it will be necessary to sow a field of rye, as above, and after they have eaten the oats, turn them upon the rye. Though the rye will be ripe before the oats, it is thought better to let the beards rot, and it will keep good in the field until September; whereas the oats will rot in a short time. After the hogs have eaten the rye, they may go upon the clover again. They then should have old corn to keep them from being reduced in flesh; the second crop of clover not being as good as the first. This method may appear very wasteful to those not familiar with it; but if a little grain is left on the field it will be an excellent fertilizer, and the straw and everything that grew on the field is left there, except the fat that is driven off with the hogs. This leaves the field in good condition for the next year.

The hogs should be kept in good condition through the winter and spring. The best place to winter them is in the woods. And let them have low, long, dry shelters to sleep in. Let them be turned on the clover the second year about the time it blossoms, and I prefer to give them a little grain. Then let them go on the oats and rye, as they did the first year. When they come off the rye the second year, it is very important to grain feed them while on clover, until they are put up to fatten. It is a great advantage to have hogs large and in good condition when fattening time commences. A lot or small field of corn, early planted, to turn on about the 15th or 20th of September, is an excellent plan; or fence off, with a temporary fence, a portion of a larger field. Continue the hogs in the field until about the middle of October or the first of November; then take them to a field intended to be plowed for next season—a clover field is best—and feed them plentifully until about the first of December, at which time they will be fit for market or slaughtering.

By feeding down upon the field, you save the labor of gathering, and leave all that grew upon it, except what is driven off in fat upon the hogs. By sowing the field in rye a few days before the hogs are taken off, a fine crop can be obtained. The grain left upon the fields pastured during the summer will soon spring up and afford a fine fall and early winter pasture. If it be intended to sow the oat and rye fields in clover, the pasturing down of the grain makes no difference. Take off the hogs as soon as they eat the grain. The decaying straw and manure left upon the field will be an advantage to the clover.

The hogs should be well salted, and have access to water. From the middle of October to the first of November, it is important to have a good, dry shelter for them to sleep in; earlier than that, they will generally sleep in the open air. If it is desired to fatten hogs the first season after we commence raising, of course we must buy them of suitable size in the spring.—The number kept to breed from must be suitable to the number we want to raise. A good brood sow will raise two litters a year, and from six to ten at a litter. A little experience in this matter will direct us aright.

By strict attention to the above method of raising and fattening hogs, as much or more can be obtained for the grain than it can be sold for, and all of it fed upon the farm, which is no small consideration. By raising grain and selling it off the farm, it will be becoming poorer. By raising, and judiciously fattening hogs, the farm will be growing richer. This, in ten years, will make a great difference. I have known some farms (reduced almost to sterility by bad management), by a proper management in sowing rye and oats and clover, and feeding them on the ground, made very productive. Feeding Indian corn upon the land is very improving to it. I once knew a field planted in corn for four years in succession, and the last crop was as as good as any that preceded it.

In regard to the worth of grain fed to hogs, I made one long-continued experiment, which satisfied me that it is remunerative. Some years ago I had a lot of corn which I could sell for only twenty cents per bushel. I concluded I would feed it to some pigs, which came about New Year's. I gave them two ears a day each until April—about ninety days. I weighed an average one on the first of April, and it weighed 52 pounds. It was then worth 2½ cts. per pound, or $1.30. It had eaten one and a half bushels of corn. I then increased the feed to three ears per day until the 15th of July—about one hundred and six days. Each ate, from April until the 15th of July, three hundred and eighteen ears; weight 130 pounds and worth $3.25. They had eaten each, from January to the 15th of July, four hundred and ninety-eight ears—not five bushels of corn, which was only worth $1; whereas the shoat was worth $3.25. While corn was worth only $1 for five bushels, in the market, less than five bushels was worth $3.25 fed to hogs. This was effected without

clover in the summer. By calculating the above weights at four to five cents per pound, you will have the worth of the pigs at present prices. This convinced me that corn can be profitably fed to hogs.

Distemper in Dogs—Remedy.

Ed. Valley Farmer: I have seen several recipes in your excellent *Valley Farmer*, for the cure of the above named disease. Formerly I lost many valuable pointer dogs by the distemper, as I did not know how to treat them. For a number of years I have lost none, though several have had the disease. Those of my neighbors who have tried my remedy, pronounce it infallible.

As physicians are very careful to put their patients upon proper diet, so I think much depends upon it. Consequently, as soon as I discover the pup has the distemper, I put it upon cooling, soft diet, such as thin mush, broth, mashed potatoes, or anything not rich and heating. I give it no meat, raw or cooked, while the distemper lasts. I see that the patient has dry, healthy quarters. I first give it a light dose of castor oil. Then, every morning, I put in its food a piece of garlic, about the size of a hazel nut, chopped fine. Within a week the patient is invariably well. Many will think this remedy is so simple that it is not worth trying; but many of the simplest are most effectual. Yours, M. C.

To Hold a Hard-Headed Horse.

N. P. Blakeslee, in the *American Agriculturist*, describes the following simple method of holding a fiery, hard-bitted, or run-away horse: Put the buckle or snap of the rein through the bit-ring, and fasten it to some part of the bridle between the ears and mouth of the horse. The advantage of this easily and quickly made arrangement is two-fold:

1st. It draws the bit into the corners of the mouth, whatever be the position of the horse's head.

2d. The force exerted on the bit in this manner by the same power at the end of the rein, though not quite doubled, is very much greater than when the rein is attached simply to the bit. By this means, I have seen the most fretful and ungovernable animal immediately converted into a serviceable plow-horse, while my eased limbs and shoulders gave direct testimony in favor of the diminished labor of managing the team.

The arrangement is also convenient in driving an ill-matched team, one-horse being a fast, and the other a moderate traveler. Arrange the reins as directed for the fast horse, leaving the others in the common way.

Equine Epidemic.—A disease of a peculiar, fatal nature has made its appearance among the horses in Oneida and Oswego counties, N. Y.—The animals are first taken stupid and sleepy, lose their appetite entirely, and in the course of three days die. A slight swelling in the region of the nose is the only external abnormal symptom. The affection is called the "horse disease"—and all remedies or medicines, though they operate as expected, fail to cure or allay the affection. Seven fine animals have died from it in North Bay. In Oswego county, upward of seventy-five have died.

Remedy for the Cure of Itch and Mange.—Take of quick-lime two ounces; sublimated, four ounces; water, one pint and a half. Let them come to the boiling point; in the meantime, the mixture should be constantly stirred; when cool, pour off the clear liquor, and rub a portion of the same over the affected parts, night and morning, by means of a piece of sponge. A few applications will usually suffice for the cure of very bad cases.

Should the application, after a few days' trial, fail to effect a cure, the following medicine must be given:

Iodide of potass, .	4 drachms.
Sulphur, . . .	2 ounces.
Pulverized poplar bark,	4 ounces.

Mix. Divide the mass into sixteen equal parts, and mix one in the food morning and evening. —[*Dr. Dadd.*

Economical Use of the Bull.—In England, on many farms, the bull is worked as a cart-horse, willingly performing a large amount of drudgery. He is regularly harnessed, like a horse in the shafts, and is often seen in a cart, led about by a boy or woman.

Horses—Flies Teasing—Preventive.—The following is said to be an effectual preventive to flies teasing the noble animal—the horse. Take two or three small handsful of walnut leaves, upon which pour from two to three quarts of soft, cold water. Let it infuse one night, and pour the whole next morning into a kettle, and let it boil for fifteen minutes; when cold, it is fit for use. Wet a sponge with the liquid, and before the horse goes out of the stable, let those parts which are most irritated be covered over with the liquid.

Salting Swine.—Why is it that farmers do not salt their hogs as regularly as they do their horses, cattle, and sheep. They relish salt as well as other animals, and we believe it is just as important for them. We always have a box of salt within their reach, and we know of some farmers who have had the best success with swine, who supply their herds of swine once or twice weekly with salt. Let our readers give salt to their herds of swine.

How to Make Horses Shine (*in horse Latin.*)—All the ingredients are warranted healthful, forming a panacea for all the ills that horses are *hair* to. *Recipe*—Brushes et curricombus, ad libitum; elbow greesus, quantum sufficius; blanketisus, first ratus; stablus (in winter) warmus; fodderus, never say dietus, but mealus, et oatus; exercisus, non-compromisus. The effect will be: Coatus shinus; appetitus, wolfitus; muscularitus, two forty-itus.

To Keep Butter Sweet.—D. E. Smith contributes to the *American Agriculturist* the following directions for preserving butter in good condition for any length of time: "In May or June, when butter is plenty, work it thoroughly two or three times, and add to the last working nearly one grain of saltpetre and a tablespoonful of pulverized loaf sugar to each pound of butter. Pack it tightly in stone jars to within two inches of the top, and fill the remaining space with strong brine. Cover the jars tightly, and bury them in the cellar bottom, where the butter will keep unhurt for a long time."

Cure for Garget in Cows.—A Valley Farmer boy, aged sixteen years, called at our office and told us that garget could very easily be cured, and without cost. Take a piece of Polk root about the size of a hen's egg, and cut it into pieces, and put them inside of a potato or potatoes, and feed to the cow, and the cure will soon be effected. He has tried it, and found it effective.

Sores—Remedy for.—Steep wild cherry tree bark in water, and apply it. It is very cleansing and healing, especially for stock.

To Relieve Choked Cattle.—Put upon the creature's head a rope or head halter, and draw the rope over the girt of the barn, or some object which will raise the animal's nose as high as can be done while standing upon its feet.—Then let two men take a smooth lever or sled stake, and, standing one on each side of the animal, press it hard against the throat, and carry it gradually down as far as possible, and the obstruction will be carried down into the stomach.



NORMAN HORSE.

A variety of this horse is greatly esteemed in France for drawing the ponderous vehicles called "Diligences." They are driven at the rate of ten miles an hour, for short stages, and evince a strength and endurance which excites the admiration of travelers. But few of the breed have been imported into this country.—Mr. Edward Harris, of Mooerstown, N. J., has some of them, the originals having been selected by himself in France. Some of these we have seen, and from an examination of them, concluded they would make very valuable farm horses. We think the breed would also be useful in another place in this country, that is in the omnibuses of our cities. This is, perhaps, the worst labor that horse-flesh is subjected to, and the best style of the Norman horse appears to possess the characteristics which would enable him to perform the drudgery with less suffering than most of the stock now used.—[*Boston Cultivator.*



HORTICULTURAL.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

THE QUINCE.

ORANGE AND ANGERS.

In looking over the proceedings of the Mo. Fruit Growers' Association, at the last meeting, upon this fruit (during the discussion of which I was engaged as a member of the Committee on Apples), I was astonished to find so little said in its favor.

I have cultivated the Orange Quince for a period of nine years, and always found it to be regularly productive; in fact, I find it to be one of the most profitable market fruits. It requires a moist, but not wet location, to bring it to its greatest perfection, and needs then but very little attention. It is certainly one of the hardiest and healthiest of all fruit trees.

Six years ago I planted seventeen small plants of the Orange Quince, 15 feet apart, on an Eastern slope. They have had little cultivation or pruning, and produced this season over thirty bushels of splendid fruit, averaging three to four inches in diameter. It was a real sight—the limbs all bent to the ground with their load of golden fruit—glorious to behold.

A year later I planted four Angers Quinces, just above the Orange. They fruited for the first time this season, and I was much pleased with the fruit. They were larger than the Orange, more oblong, and evidently keep much better. I think the green fruit can be kept until February. They have a fine flavor, and cook more tender than the Orange. The trees were also very full, and seemed to bear as well as the Orange.

According to my experience, the Quince succeeds so well here, that even at 50 cents a bushel it would be a paying crop; not to speak of the luxuries of preserved quinces, quince jelly, &c. which should be in every house.

GEORGE HUSMANN.

THE LARGEST APPLE TREE IN AMERICA—*To the Eds. Louisville Journal:* There is growing on the farm of Thos. K. Adams, in this (Rockcastle) county, an apple tree, planted by William Canifax in the year 1800, that measures above the ground 15 feet in circumference; four feet from ground, 12 feet; it is five feet to the fork; one fork measures 7 feet 9 inches, and the others 5 feet 5 inches. The branches extend each way from the body, 65 feet. The fruit is of an excellent quality, resembling the Queen apple; keeps well in winter. Yours, W. H. K.

Mt. Vernon, Ky. July 19, 1861.

VENTILATE APPLES IN BARRELS.

The main reason why apples decay so rapidly when confined in barrels, is that they have no ventilation. They undergo what is called a "sweating" process—*i.e.*, they part with or pass off considerable moisture, and this moisture when confined in barrels cannot evaporate—be taken up by the air. The apples left in this moist, confined condition, speedily decay.

Now, if the barrels are perforated with augur holes, the air can readily pass through the barrels, absorb the moisture, and leave the apples in a dry, healthy condition. We know of a number of gentlemen who put their apples in barrels, so perforated, from the trees in the orchards. They then place them in out-buildings where there can be a free circulation of air, and let them remain as long as they are safe from being frozen, when they are put in the cellar, where they can get as free a circulation as possible, and they come out sound in the spring. This method gives but little trouble, and when apples are raised on a large scale for market, and the barrels can be had, it is as good a plan as any to keep apples till spring. Very heavy losses occur in keeping apples over winter, merely for the want of a little judgment and care.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

HELIOTROPES.

BY CAREW SANDERS.

Owing to their agreeable fragrance and cheerful looking flowers, the Heliotropes are always favorites in the flower garden, and when successfully cultivated in pots they are very ornamental for the window or greenhouse.

The only fault belonging to them as bedding plants, is their being so tender as to be often destroyed by frost early in the season, while other occupants of the flower garden continue in perfection. Notwithstanding this, however, they must still be cultivated, both out-doors and in, more especially as the varieties have become so greatly improved both in habit of growth and richness of color. Modest and unassuming as the single flowers appear, yet when planted in a clump or mass of a dozen plants or so, and in good bloom, they not only make a handsome show, but the delightful and powerful fragrance

they shed around renders the spot a paradise to the olfactories of most persons.

It is to be regretted that the tenderness of this little Peruvian plant makes it so difficult to preserve over winter in pits, or the window. The first breath of frost almost blackens and destroys the foliage and bloom, hence it requires a greenhouse to do it justice. If attempted to be kept over in the house, it is better kept in a dormant state, with branches pruned down to the hard wood and denuded of foliage; then it must be kept out of the reach of frost, and not too damp, nor be allowed to dry up.

But the plants may be had so cheaply of the florist in spring, that it is hardly worth the amateur's while to bother with them, trying to keep them over winter, when a dollar or so will buy a dozen, in small pots, just the thing to set out, and at the most proper season.

To those who are especially fond of their odor and desire flowers for boquets, for which purpose the Heliotrope is eminently fitted, we think they would not be disappointed, if, instead of a few plants scattered about the garden, they would plant a small bed of them by themselves, say a small circle with from 12 to 16 plants, set 2 feet apart.

As a pot plant the Heliotrope is valuable, and with good management may be formed into handsome specimens. For this purpose, young plants should be taken, and liberally shifted into thoroughly drained pots, and kept growing through the summer, but not allowed to bloom, the ends of the shoots being frequently pinched off to keep them dwarf and compact. The plants being thus made, they will flower in a warm, light, airy situation, freely all winter.

The following varieties are very great improvements on the old favorites, both in habit, color, profusion of bloom, and general good qualities:

Gen'l Valhubert: very dark purple flowers; young foliage, almost black; neat, compact habit, though a strong grower and free bloomer.

Pericles: a clear, bright, handsome purple; immense bloomer, with large and beautiful truss —one of the very best.

Gem: dwarf, compact habit; free bloomer; deep purple, with a white spot on the outer edge of the petals; quite a striking flower.

Beauty of the Boudoir: deep purple lilac; very free bloomer.

Mme. Cassenave: large truss; robust habit; pale violet flowers; free blooming and fine.

Splendidum: upright, strong grower; dark foliage; immense trusser; deep, rich, lilac flowers; superb.

Illinois State Horticultural Society.—We are informed by our friend, Dr. John A. Kennicott, the President of this Society, that its annual meeting will take place at Chicago, on the third of December—the present month. We need only call attention to this fact to induce all who are interested in fruit culture in the West, to attend, if possible. This Society embraces among its members some of the best pomologists in the West. We have attended a number of its meetings, and have always been entertained and instructed. We hope it may be largely attended. Efforts are being made to get the railroad companies to sell half-fare tickets.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

Calendar of Operations in the Vineyard.

BY GEORGE HUSMANN.

DECEMBER.

Continue the work of last month, if not already finished—pruning, cutting your cuttings, hauling in earth for top dressing, and preparing the ground for new plantations.

Look to your wine, and keep your casks well filled. Provide posts and laths for trellis, and set them if you can find the time. Secure your stock of plants, if you must purchase, at a reliable place, so that they are ready for planting when you want them. Get good one-year-old plants; they are better than two years old, as they suffer less by transplanting.

Missouri State Fruit Growers' Association.

The Annual Meeting of the Missouri State Fruit Growers' Association, will be held in the Supreme Court Room, in the city of Saint Louis, commencing on the second Tuesday, the 7th of January next.

The fruit growers, nurserymen, and vine dressers of this and the neighboring States, and all others interested in horticultural pursuits, are cordially invited to be present and participate in the deliberations of the meetings.

A full attendance of the members of the Association is confidently expected, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of the affairs of the State.

We take this opportunity to urge upon all the importance of bringing specimens, both of Fruits and Wines, so that the exhibition may comprise the greatest possible number and variety of the productions of the orchard, fruit garden, and vineyard. Those who are unable to attend, can materially aid in advancing the interests of the Society by forwarding samples of fruit and wine by express, or otherwise, directed to *Missouri Fruit Growers' Association*, care of Norman J. Colman, *Valley Farmer Office*, 97 Chesnut Street, or to Henry T. Mudd, Esq. Court House.

The Society are anxious to receive samples from every quarter of the State, and hope that

no one will omit to send such as his locality affords.

An especial invitation is extended to our horticultural friends of Illinois.

C. W. SPALDING, *Pres.*

L. D. MORSE, *Cor. Sec.*

St. Louis, Nov. 15, 1861.

[Written for the Valley Farmer.]

Monthly Notes for the Garden and Orchard.

By Carew Sanders.

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES.

Both of these fruits are undoubtedly best planted in the fall, *provided the canes are afterwards bent down* and covered with soil. The Blackberry and Raspberry, common as they are, are bad things to deal with in transplanting.—Failures to grow, often occur. We believe this would be obviated, if they were planted in the fall; but by no means allow them to remain exposed to the effects of winter. We would prefer to plant them in any open weather in winter, than to have them left too late in spring, and would invariably cut down the cane to within a few inches of the ground, and cover the stump with a fork-full or two of long manure. Failures to grow in spring would then rarely happen.

STRAWBERRY BEDS,

Set out last fall should have a dressing of old decayed tan bark or stable manure spread over and about them, as a protective through the winter. This is not done through any want of hardiness in the strawberry, but it prevents the freezing and thawing continually, by which the plants are drawn out of the soil and the roots exposed. When covered, if the frost penetrates the coat, the soil remains frozen till the warm spring rains act on it.

Old beds that have become matted with plants, should be thinned out by running an iron rake roughly through them, and a covering of manure given them, so that the winter rains may carry fertilizing matter down into the soil, about the roots, to be ready in an available form when growth commences in spring.

HARDY TREES.

Planting all kinds of hardy trees may be done all the winter, when open weather occurs, only take care not to expose the roots to frost when not covered with soil. In fall and winter planting, it is always best to draw up a pile of earth 6 or 8 inches high, around the trunk of the tree, and add a little mulching, as old saw-dust, spent tan, or rough manure, for a yard or so in diameter around each tree.

GRAPE VINES,

And all the small fruits, may be pruned with advantage this month, and the young wood made into cuttings, if it is desired to increase the number of plants. Cut scions for winter and spring grafting.

VEGETABLE GARDEN.

"One of the most important operations at this season, and one of great influence on the productive capabilities of the soil, is turning over the surface roughly, to expose it to the ameliorating and disintegrating action of the weather. While freezing, the contained water expands and separates the earthy particles, and a gradual crumbling and granulation takes place during the thawing process, and a friability is produced which is not attained by any other means. By proper foresight, the labors of spring may also be lessened by this operation. For example, the ground set apart for early potatoes, may be thrown up in ridges and thus left exposed all winter. When planting season arrives, the space between the ridges may be straightened with a hoe and the seed put in, covering it by leveling down the ridges. Crops so treated, will mature much earlier than by the usual method of sowing in the newly-turned-up cold soil, and can be put down from one to two weeks earlier in the season.

"Cauliflower, lettuce, and other plants in frames, should be kept dry, especially in frosty weather, and at all times protected from heavy rains. During snow storms they may remain covered up for several days, taking care to expose gradually to sunshine afterwards." Very much the same management is required for flowering plants, that are kept over in pits and frames.

Winter is also a most favorable time to haul manure out on the garden, and as modern experience is very much in favor of surface manuring, it may be spread out over the ground until spring, when digging or plowing takes place to work it in—the rains and snows will leach out the virtue of the manure, and carry it down as available plant food.

TENDER SHRUBS—WINTER PROTECTION.

Many choice evergreen shrubs are supposed to be tender, because the leaves get browned and the points of the young shoots killed, giving them a deadened, unsightly appearance. The few broad-leaved evergreens we have are on the contrary perfectly hardy. Only one thing is required to be attended to, and that is to shade them from the sun in winter. They are quite capable of enduring the severest winters we have in this latitude without injury, except to young, immature wood, which has been made late in the season—and this may be taken off before the approach of winter, and be the better for it.

There is no garden where situations might not be chosen, where little groups of these shrubs might be planted, and never need protection, yet retain their verdure and beauty all through the winter. Such places would be on the North and West sides of buildings, fences, or in the shade of larger shrubs and trees, especially evergreens, and also deciduous, if not planted to near the roots, but within the shade of the higher branches. Of course, where they are not so planted, an artificial shade must be created for them, if their freshness would be preserved; but they do not need wrapping up in straw, or be otherwise hid from sight.

The principal shrubs alluded to above, are the Evergreen Thorn, *Crætegus Pyracanthus*, a most

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beautiful, thorny, shrub, with clusters of large scarlet berries in winter, like the Mountain Ash. It makes splendid clumps of light foliage, and looks much better if planted in a thicket where some low-growing plant is wanted to be seen over. Another equally handsome and equally hardy, is the Holly-leaved Berberry, *Mahonia Aquifolia*, which has larger, wrinkled, glossy and thorny foliage, and bright yellow flowers in spring. This plant is almost sure to suffer if exposed, but is perfectly green and beautiful if shaded from the sun, and admirably adapted for low, dense clumps of foliage, though it gets up faster and higher than the thorn.

Other evergreens coming in the same category with the above, are the English and Irish Yew, both beautiful, with the darkest green foliage; the Irish growing upright and straight, like the Swedish Juniper. We may add to the above the Tree Box and Japan Spindle Tree, *Euonymus Japonicus*, the latter somewhat tender in reality, but enduring most winters. The Tree Box forms a round, symmetrical head, and is best adapted for single specimens, making an excellent centre for a small circle, or other shaped and slightly raised bed; and as they are all shrubs of the most refined character, may, and should be planted near the house (in the angles or nooks made by the building), and about the walks.

There are few deciduous shrubs that we cultivate, that require protection. Some of them, as the Chaste Tree and *Wiegelia Amabilis*, bloom late in the season and on the current year's wood; and if the old wood does get winter killed (which mostly happens), it does not in the least affect their beauty for another season, as they grow up rapidly from below the destroyed part. The *Buddlea Lindleyana* and *Corchorus Japonica*, will also come under the above.

The English Ivy—the "Ivy Green" of Dickens, is one of the most beautiful of evergreen shrubs; a perfect climber; beautiful in the heavy, massive, yet sombre drapery, with which it clothes the walls of Europe's ancient towers, churches, and other edifices. If we would enjoy the sight of this as an out-door plant, it must be invariably planted on the North side of stone walls; and if damp, so much the better, for if the sun comes on the foliage when frozen crisp, it utterly destroys it; but with the above precautions, it may be made quite a useful winter plant.

All the species of roses generally denominated tender, here, the Bourbon, Bengal or China, Noisette, &c. may be preserved through most winters easily, if pegged down in the ground and covered with dry forest leaves, or straw; or even if only a coat of littery manure or leaves, are placed around the base, and the tops get killed, they will start out from near the ground and bloom freely during the summer. Where it is desired to save the wood of stiff, upright Hybrid Perpetuals, a wrapping of straight, clean, rye straw, is at once the best and neatest method.

"Roses are certainly more beautiful than red cents, and, if they have the opportunity, the hearts of our children will go out after them more spontaneously."

FOREIGN GRAPES IN MISSOURI.

Vinelands, St. Louis Co. Mo.
Sept. 18, 1861.

To the President of the St. Louis Vine and Fruit Growers' Association, Hon. Bernard Pratte:

Sir—The undersigned Committee, appointed by you in behalf of the St. Louis Vine and Fruit Growers' Association, to inspect the vines and fruits grown upon their lands at this place, and particularly the new white grapes of European origin, first grown here in the open air by the Secretary, Mr. Chas. H. Haven (and which they believe are the first grapes of the kind grown in the Western States), beg leave to report that they found the various American grapes bearing their complement of fruit, and in as fine a condition as the general crops throughout the West have this year exhibited in any locality, as far as they have seen or heard. They found also growing vigorously the young vines of last year's planting; this may also be said of the very large number of pear, cherry, peach, plum, and apple trees, seen by them in the various orchards and avenues into which the grounds are sub-divided.

They witnessed with surprise and pleasure the successful growth of the choicest foreign grapes in the open air, without any aid from artificial heat or shelter, either from glass or any other means, up to this time. One kind was Burgundy, bearing handsome bunches of sweet and pulpless black grapes on strong vines. But the really valuable discovery made in this connection by the Secretary, and now manifest to them, was the feasibility of open air culture of the large white hot house grape, known either as the true Hungarian Tokay or the Charlesworth Tokay, both of which kinds are specially noticed for their superior excellence among foreign grapes by Mr. Downing, in his work on fruits, and by a horticultural journal of high standing, the Philadelphia *Gardener's Monthly*, of January, 1861, page 30, to which you will please refer.

This white grape, transparent almost as crystal, and of fine size, was hanging in large bunches on the vine, which had been exposed with the many thousand others of the Company, to all the vicissitudes of winter and summer, in a position *facing the North*, and upon lands elevated four hundred feet above St. Louis. This elevation Mr. Haven found from observations, made by him during eight years with the thermometer, modified the extremes of heat and cold from seven to ten degrees when contrasted with the temperature in the valleys of the adjacent rivers Missouri and Meramec, or with that of the city, thirty miles distant; and he attached great weight to this subject of altitude as having contributed much to the success of his experiments with foreign grapes in the open air.

They found, upon measurement of one of the bunches in question, that it was seven inches in length, and nine inches in average circumference, besides being very compact throughout; the grapes were oval in shape, and equalled in size most, if not all, of hot house growth ever seen by them, and this, notwithstanding a large extent of new canes allowed to the vine, which,

upon being measured, they ascertained to be fully one hundred feet in aggregate length, while, as regards flavor, entire absence of pulp, and all the requisites of the most luscious grapes, they could not be surpassed.

In view of these important facts to us as Missourians, made so on account of the now ascertained acclimation of this noble grape, as well as the Burgundy, among us, and the consequent rapid spread of their cultivation likely to ensue, your Committee believe that they are destined to give the strongest inducement to the people of this country and of Europe to select for settlement the highland regions south and west of St. Louis, which equal in extent and adaptability for grape culture the whole vine districts of France or of Hungary. Nor can they perceive any reason why the two finest wines of these countries—the Burgundy and Tokay—may not soon become those of Missouri, since it is now shown that the grapes from which they are made can be grown here with the same ease and luxuriance as they are abroad.

In concluding their report, your Committee can but express their gratification that to the efforts of the St. Louis Vine and Fruit Growers' Association, and to their Secretary as their active Agent, will justly belong the honor of having led the way to these important results.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. H. LIGHTNER,
JOSIAH FOGG,
R. W. OLIPHANT, M.D. } *Committee.*

[Reported for the Valley Farmer.]

Meramec Horticultural Society.

EUREKA, Nov. 7th, 1861.

The thirty-fifth monthly meeting was held in the School House. The President in the Chair.

The minutes of the former meeting were read, and approved of. One new member was admitted.

THE FRUIT COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

Your Committee are a little surprized to see so few of the members exhibiting fruit to-day. The fruit on the tables is very fine, but much less of it than usual.

Mr. Allen exhibits Rawles' Janet, Newtown Pippin, Pryor's Red, Ortley, Rambo, and Willow Twig. The Rambo and Newtown Pippin, extra fine, and one variety wanting a name and promising to be a good keeper.

Mr. Daniel S. Warfield sends specimens of eight varieties of apples—Ortley, Kaighn's Spitzenberg, Jeneton, Swaar, Cayuga, Red Streak, Wine Sap, Lewis Sanders' Newtown Pippin, and English Golden Pippin of Richter. In this collection of apples we see much to admire; the varieties include the most valuable apples grown, and the high degree of perfection visible in the size, symmetry and coloring, gives evidence of good location and much care and attention in cultivation. The Ortley and Wine Sap are decidedly extra.

Dr. McPherson shows good specimens of Fall Pippin, Rhode Island Greening (in good eating order), Pennock, and Jeneton. A. W. MCPHERSON, Ch.

THE FLOWER COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

The Flower Committee find on the table a choice boquet, by Mrs. Dr. Beale, comprising that exquisite native shrub Sorbus Americana (common name unknown, but too much neglected as one of our most beautiful winter ornamental shrubs,)—Periwinkle, Mountain Thyme, Chrysanthemum, Sweet Alice, Verbena, Globe Amaranth 2 varieties, Mignonnette, Linaria or Toad Flax (apt to become a pest), and a new moss.

Another, by Mrs. Kittredge, comprising 8 varieties of seedling Verbena, Geranium, and African Tamarix, a shrub that should be in every collection for its peculiar and graceful form. WM. MUIR, Ch.

THE VEGETABLE COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

A good display of winter vegetables greet the Committee, on the tables, to-day. T. R. Allen has his Mammoth Nansemond Sweet Potatoes, also the Yam, very large. Dr. McPherson has very fine specimens of Red Top Strap Leaf Turnip (6 of which weighed 29 lbs.), and White Neshannock Potatoes, Red Sweet Potatoes, and Turnip Blood Beet. E. Vaughn has large specimens of Peach Blow Potatoes, Purple Top Turnip, Carrots and Parsnips. Wm. Muir has the Chinese Yam. O. Kittredge has White Sugar Beet, Long Red Blood Beet, White Flat Dutch Turnip, Ruta Baga, Yellow Aberdeen Turnip, White Neshannock and Peach Blow Potatoes. O. KITTREDGE, Ch.

The meeting then resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole to test the contents of sundry baskets and some bottles of blackberry wine, cordial and bounce that evidently wanted a special committee, and every member wanted to be on the Committee. After considerable stir and great animation, the Chairman of the Executive Committee declined making a written report or full explanation, but winked and uttered the distressing words, "all gone."

The Committee appointed to report on the "Varieties and Quantities of Fruit Proper for a Family Garden in this Locality," presented two lists of apples as a partial report, which were received and discussed seriatim, and the following list of varieties and proportions in a hundred trees were adopted as having been found to do well, and could be recommended.

In an orchard of 100 trees: Early Harvest 3, Red June 2, Golden Sweet 3, Maiden's Blush 5, Fall Pippin 2, Fall Queen 3, Rambo 10, Mackinlay 5, Ortley 10, Yellow Bellflower 5, Pryor's Red 5, Newtown Pippin 15, Wine Sap 8, Michael Henry Pippin 10, Peck's Pleasant 4, Jeneton 14.

It was remarked by members that there were many other valuable apples on trial in the locality, but had not been tested sufficiently. Red June was adopted as coming into bearing much sooner than Early Harvest, although the Harvest was more esteemed as a fruit. Golden Sweet had done well, and all felt the want of sufficient experience with the Jersey Sweeting and Talman's sweet to justify their insertion into the list, and were fully impressed with the fact that good sweet apples are too much neglected, particularly in family culture, where apples for children and waste ones for stock become an element for consideration.—Maiden's Blush came early into bearing, and was valuable for cooking qualities. Fall Pippin and Fall Queen came in fine season for drying. Rambo for early and Newtown Pippin for late cider. Ortley, Yellow Bellflower, and Pryor's Red for superlative eating qualities. Newtown Pippin, Michael Henry Pippin, Wine Sap and Jeneton for keeping qualities. Many demurrers were heard in regard to the flavor, texture and keeping qualities of the Jeneton, and remarks made as to its being too highly estimated in this State; but public opinion and its late blooming were deferred to. The Mackinlay was a child of this district and its fine qualities demanded a place on the list.

Dr. McPherson was added to the Committee on Fruits, and farther time allowed to extend the report.

The President announced the next meeting (which is the annual meeting) to take place at the School House, Allenton, on the first Thursday of December, at 10 A. M.

Meeting adjourned. WM. MUIR, Sec.

"There is cultivation of mind and heart in the care of beautiful plants."

To Prevent Rabbits from Barking Trees.

Ed. Valley Farmer: Rabbits are sometimes very troublesome during winter, and occasion much loss by barking young fruit trees, even after they are over three inches in diameter—and every person having trees should protect them. Wrapping them with paper or old rags, will do very well; but they cannot always be had in the quantities required, nor are they very ornamental in appearance. The best thing I know for the purpose, are corn-stalks. Cut these about two feet in length; then split them in halves, and when you have enough set them upright around the tree you wish to protect, putting the cut surface next the tree, and then tie with willows, or other suitable material.—This is cheap, convenient, and durable, lasting from two to three years. E. A. Riehl.

DWARF APPLES.

It is possible that the Dwarf Apple may become more popular than the Dwarf Pear. It is not liable to the accidents of the latter. All sorts of apples grow freely on the dwarf stock, and it is not necessary to take that particular care in selection, founded on many years of experience—although some sorts of the apple form handsomer and better shaped heads when treated as dwarfs than others. The symmetrical growers should be selected, because they make the process of pruning simpler, and more easily give the desired shape.

Common standard apple trees occupy too much room for gardens and small places. At the commonly recommended distance, 33 feet, only 40 can stand on an acre; and placed at the nearest distance admissable, 25 feet, an acre is required for 69 trees. A quarter acre village garden can therefore have only 10 trees at the former, and 17 at the latter named distance, if apple trees occupy the whole ground. But dwarf apples may stand about four times nearer, giving sixteen times as many trees on a quarter acre. If therefore one half the quarter acre is occupied with dwarf apples, 85 trees may be planted at 8 feet apart, a suitable distance for the Doucain dwarf; or 150 at 6 feet apart, the space for the smaller or Paradise dwarf.

The best varieties for dwarf stocks, as a general rule, are those which naturally form a round or oval head. Such will need but little pruning. Among these are the Red Astrachan, Jersey Sweet, Porter, Baldwin, Dyer, Monmouth Pippin, Summer Rose, Benoni and Sweet Bough. There are others inclined to grow upright, and need some pruning to prevent their running upwards, and to induce spreading, among these are the Northern Spy, Twenty Ounce, Lady Apple, Wagner, Early Strawberry, and Bailey Sweet, all of which make handsome dwarfs.—Then again, others, although not so handsome growers, yet the ornamental appearance of the fruit renders them desirable dwarfs, as the Fameuse, Red Canada, Carolina Red June, Munson Sweet, &c. There are still others which grow so irregular that some care would be required to make handsome trees of them, such as Fall Pippin, Canada Reinette, and Tompkins County King. Dwarf apples should be mostly confined to summer and autumn varieties, in order to furnish a fresh supply for the table of the desirable sorts. Winter apples may be most profitably raised in orchards of large trees, or purchased in market by the barrel.

Dwarfs are especially desirable for those who plant new places, and consequently desire an early return. The Paradise stock will give crops the third year; and the Doucain the fourth, in abundance.

A fine young collection of dwarfs, now four years planted, and growing their fifth summer, bear much better this unfavorable season than old orchards. Some of the trees are loaded. A Hawthornden is so full that the branches densely set with apples lie on the ground with their loads of fruit, now in the second year of such profuse bearing. The Doucain trees are about 7 feet high, and the Paradise 5 to 6 feet. The soil is fertile, and always well cultivated.—[*Country Gentleman.*

Grafting the Grape Vine.—My experience in grafting the vine for several years would furnish a chapter of failures. I think I grafted a few vines every season for about five years, and during the whole time succeeded in making but one grow and form a good vine; and this one only by disregarding the usual directions given by the professed experts. Instead of waiting for the formation of leaves, and discontinuance of the excessive flow of sap, I grafted this one early, before the flow commenced. Since that time I have grafted thousands of vines, with nearly as good success as attends any other kind of grafting. I have practiced saddle-grafting, whip grafting, and several fancy methods, but have found the common cleft grafting, carefully performed, the most reliable and successful.—For large, strong stocks, I hardly think tying necessary, though a covering of clay or grafting wax is undoubtedly beneficial. For smaller stocks, I use only paper covered with grafting wax on one side. I could not recommend copper wire in any case. I have also grafted on various stocks, with very little difference in result, using indiscriminately the wild frost grape of the woods, the Catawba, Isabella, Concord, and some others. I do not say grafting the vine cannot be successfully performed after the leaves have formed; but it is a fact that up to the present time, notwithstanding many trials, I have never succeeded in doing it.—[*Geo. W. Campbell, in Horticulturist.*

As our houses and gardens are more or less infested with vermin, it is satisfactory to know that *benzine*, an article become sufficiently well known as a detergent, is no less efficacious an agent in insecticide. One or two drops are sufficient to asphyxiate the most redoubtable insect pest.



A LETTER ON ORATORY.

The following is a private letter from one friend to another on Oratory. Having been submitted to our inspection, we were so struck with the correctness of the views expressed, that we solicited a copy for publication. The favor was granted on condition that the names of the parties should not be disclosed. Farmers' sons should become orators. They ought to prepare themselves to become our future legislators, governors, and presidents.

You are right that oratory and poetry are akin. Not only that, they are related also to painting, sculpture, architecture, &c. These are the means through which the intensified man expresses himself. They are only a means, a medium of communication, as a sword is a means in a man's hand. Remember, however, that only the intensified man, that is, the man of enlivened imagination, active passions, and strong emotions, is entitled to these means, viz: versification, oratory, sculpture, &c. The ordinary, passive man, has nothing to do with them: they are not for him. He has but one way to express himself—prose; *unless* he has moments of intensified feeling, or inspiration, as it is termed. All people are apt to have such moments more or less. In fact many of our greatest works of genius, especially in poetry, are the results of such moments. But some men have these moments oftener than others, and of longer duration, and more intense. Some people's lives seem made up of one continued inspiration, as they appear ready at all times for the work. Still these latter must have their depressed moments. Their excitation (inspiration depends upon excitement) is doubtless on a higher plane. Such men are generally sooner exhausted or worn out. They are generally short lived. The mental fires are too much for the body. The strain on the body wears it out prematurely. Thus it will be seen who are fit for oratory, poetry, &c, and who are not. A man who is unfit for them, only fails if he attempt them—attempts to make them a means of communication, when he has nothing to communicate. Do you see the hollowness of the thing in the attempts of such men? Still, although nature does much for a man, it does it not all. Cultivation, not of the means, but of the man, is the first and main thing. We all are susceptible, more or less, of this inspired or poetical influence; else we could not appreciate it when we see it in others. Cultivation of the man, then, is the first, the main, the important thing. Yet how few view it in this way.—They go to the means first, and neglect the man, showing only how they misapprehend the thing, and work with the cart before the horse. Do you wonder that so many fail? I do not.

We have little to do, directly, with the means. By cultivating the man, the means are measurably secured—it follows as a necessary result. Knowledge is power. Our success depends upon our knowledge; and what knowledge we have, we always have means to communicate; for there is no thought without its word: hence a man's defect of words is also a defect of thought. In acquiring our taste—in the cultivation of the mind—we become familiar with language, always commensurate with the thought we obtain. If we lack in our vocabulary, it is evidence we are not extensive readers, or what we read is not impressed on the mind. If we lack in the power of reception, we shall lack in words. The man familiar with Shakespeare, understands the language of that day, which has many words that are obsolete, that one, unacquainted with Shakespeare or the old writers, does not understand. A man can generally understand what are the favorite authors of a writer now-a-days, by the style and words he uses. Hence you can tell by a man's vocabulary what he has been doing; how extensive his knowledge is. In nothing is this more plainly seen than in our New York dailies, where many editors are required for the different subjects and departments, bringing into requisition the various technical words.

I must therefore find fault with your seeking to enlarge your vocabulary of words, rather than storing your mind with ideas. It is thinking that makes the man, if he acts upon his thought. You think you lack words; do you not rather lack compass of thought? Are you ever at a loss for words when you are engaged in your subject, in the vein, as we say? I dare say you have fluency enough at times. Yet how many words that you might use on the occasion, are unemployed, words that you well enough know the meaning of? It is because the right word is used by you, and you need no others—for a man's words must spring to the matter when it comes for utterance, as particles spring to the magnet. The right words will spring to it; and that is the whole of it. That moment that you seek for words, that moment you are astray. Hence the unpopularity of learning a dictionary by heart. It would be like putting the points of punctuation in a book all in one place. Some people think the simplest words are to be preferred. This would be like wearing your handsomest clothes on the farm. Instinct must direct. The thought always suggests the word, and we must fall in with the suggestion. When Patrick Henry addressed the court in his hunting shirt, do you think he had a learned diction? His eloquence culminated in "liberty or death"—common words enough, are they not? There is power in simple words; but only when the

sense requires simple words. How much error exists on this subject. What I have said about it I am certain is correct. So much then for words. I am certain I shall never study them. They come with good reading and conversation.—Some minds receive them more readily than others. It is because they also receive knowledge more readily. The subject of words is quite a small matter in oratory. Knowledge alone cannot do it. Not even argument. There must be something else. Not personal appearance (size, &c.) Not voice; nor fluency; though all these have their influence. Their influence, however, is quite minor. Among the great orators of the world and of the present day, all forms and voices are found: small men, and large men; loud-voiced, and low-voiced; rapid, and slow. It is not in these, or but slightly.—It is in the conscious presence and power of the man, who holds his audience because he is superior to it—not indeed in everything—but in the power of moving, by argument, by statement, by startling surprise, &c., but pre-eminently by the awakened, illumined inspiration of the man, which circumstances, such as the importance of the subject, or the occasion may call forth. The man must be wide awake; he must feel his subject, see it—see around it and in advance; his genius must light it up, and make all clear. You see nature must have her finger here, as well as culture. A man must—in a measure at least—be born an orator; or rather, a man of eloquence; or rather, what he *says* should be born, for he cannot *always* say it so—only in the right moments. This brings me to the starting point.

Thus we see a man cannot always be eloquent at will. The greatest orators are more able at one time than at another. Some, however, are so thoroughly practiced in art, that (like Rachel and Demosthenes) they have the effect of natural declaimers. But this art itself requires almost a genius. Who is equal to it? Very few.

First of all, a man must have a relish for a thing, or he will hardly succeed. That relish, mind, you, must not be for applause (as many mistake their aspirations), but the natural love for the vocation. Then perseverance will readily follow; and success, if the drawback is not too great, will be obtained. You can't do a thing well if your mind is on another. That is uphill work. You see by this that a man's heart must be in his work; and of all men, no man's more than the orator's. But, in order to succeed, a man must give his mind wholly to it—wholly at the time—I mean, the time he devotes to it. And a strong relish, a passion for it, is necessary to this. Else it is hard to confine the mind wholly. There are so many things to draw it off, to be constantly pulling here and there. Paganini did not know what was going on around him when he was playing the violin, so wrapt up in his subject was he.—That is the way to know a thing, to keep the eye constantly on the gun. By doing this, a man can trace out most anything. He can learn all about oratory, cultivate himself, follow on and carry out the thread of discourse to real and imaginary audiences—he can do herculean things. But only in this way. **

KNITTING.

Ed. Valley Farmer: Can it be, that the ancient and honorable employment of knitting, is following in the wake of plain sewing, and getting out of repute?

The various machines on exhibition at our fairs would seem to indicate that it will soon be monopolized by steel fingers, and that a lady with her knitting work in hand, will ere long be among the "things that were."

Your correspondent, for one, has not yet become reconciled to the idea of the change, and would protest in the name of all grandmothers against such inventions, as an infringement upon their rights. I have remarked, to my dismay, for some time, that my favorite employment was not as high in favor as formerly. A lady now-a-days will scarce enter her parlor, where genteel guests are assembled, with her knitting work; or, if she does, she will deem some apology necessary for the old-fashioned occupation. And yet there is none that is prettier or more convenient for fingers feminine. It does not tax the eyes nor the mind, as the embroidery now so much in vogue; nor does it interfere in the least with the flow of conversation; and in the pauses, the click of the busy needles forms a pleasing interlude.

There are some ladies whose hands are marvels of nervous activity, and if they are deprived of legitimate sources of occupation, are in danger of creating general disorder around them, by dallying with the sofa tassels, rustling the leaves of books, and disarranging the fancy trifles within their reach. Such a person is contented when she has her knitting work, for it, of all others, furnishes the best escape valve for her superfluous activity—and what would she do were the ban of fashion to be placed upon it? And how would old ladies employ their feeble fingers and dim eyes? Would it not diminish greatly their enjoyment, to have a rattling machine in the corner of the room, that can turn out as pretty a pair of stockings in an hour, as any of them could in a couple of days?

And then knitting has associated with it so many pleasing, almost sacred memories. Who does not remember how they hung on the arm of grandma's chair, and watched her busy fingers as they looped stitch after stitch upon the bright needles, and the ball grew less and less, and the red stockings which we were promised grew before our eyes into an actual "thing of beauty," which was a joy to us for a time, at least, if not forever. How we used to puzzle over the marvellous cloudings, and the intricate

seam, and fancy work at the top, until childish imagination was completely lost in the labyrinthian meshes!

And then the lessons in the same art, taken at the knee of that same patient grandma, who never wearied with repeating her instructions and her cautions; who was never vexed at our perverseness, and who never laughed at the mistakes of clumsy little fingers, that often grew unaccountably unmanageable, when there was some merry game pending, that had to be postponed until the required "stent" was knit.

And when at last a pair of stockings was completed for a baby sister, or a pair of socks for Papa's Christmas present, what a triumph it was of perseverance, and tedious — infinitely tedious application! Verily, if the gift were valued by its cost, in childish sacrifice, and childish hopes and fears, it were almost priceless!

But such things are only of the past. Little girls must be taught more refined accomplishments; grandmothers must condescend to do frivolous embroideries; and other ladies must study the art of graceful idleness.

O——, Ill. Sep. 1861. MARIE ESTELLE.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

Life is a race where some succeed,
While others are beginning:
'Tis luck at times, at others speed,
That gives an early winning.
But if you chance to fall behind,
Ne'er slacken your endeavor;
Just keep this wholesome truth in mind:
'Tis better late than never!

If you can keep ahead, 'tis well;
But never trip your neighbor;
'Tis noble when you can excel
By honest, patient labor.
But if you are outstripped at last,
Press on as bold as ever;
Remember, though you are surpassed,
'Tis better late than never!

Ne'er labor for an idle boast
Of victory o'er another,
But while you strive your uttermost,
Deal fairly with a brother.
Whate'er your station, do your best,
And hold your purpose ever;
And if you fail to beat the rest,
'Tis better late than never!

Choose well the path in which you run—
Succeed by noble daring;
Then, tho' the last, when once 'tis won,
Your crown is worth the wearing.
Then never fret, if left behind,
Nor slacken your endeavor;
But ever keep this truth in mind—
'Tis better late than never!

Never defend an error because you once thought it to be the truth.

REMEDIES FOR DYSPEPSIA.

Hall's Journal of Health says:

There are some general principles of cure applicable to all, and which will seldom fail of high advantages:

1. The entire body should be washed once a week with soap, hot water, and a stiff brush.

2. Wear woolen next the skin the year around—during the daytime only.

3. By means of ripe fruit and berries, coarse bread, and other coarse food, keep the bowels acting freely once in every twenty-four hours.

4. Under all circumstances, keep the feet always clean, dry, and warm.

5. It is most indispensable to have the fullest plenty of sound, regular, connected, and refreshing sleep, in a clean, light, well-aired chamber, with windows facing the sun.

6. Spend two or three hours of every forenoon, and one or two of every afternoon, rain or shine, in the open air, in some form of interesting, exhilarating, and unwearying exercise—walking with a cheering and entertaining companion is the very best.

7. Eat at regular times and always slowly.

8. That food is best for each which is most relished, and is followed by the least discomfort. What may have benefitted and injured one, is no rule for another. This eighth item is of universal application.

9. Take but a teacupful of any kind of drink at one meal, and let that be hot.

10. Confine yourself to coarse bread of corn, rye, or wheat—to ripe, fresh, perfect fruits and berries, in their natural state—and to fresh, lean meats, broiled or roasted, as meat is easier of digestion than vegetables. Milk, gravies, pastries, heavy hot bread, farinas, starches, and greasy food in general, aggravate dyspepsia by their constipating tendencies.

11. It is better to eat at regular times as often as hungry, but so little at once as to occasion no discomfort whatever.

12. Constantly aim to divert the mind from the bodily condition, in pleasant ways; this is half the cure in many cases.

THE BATTLE OF LIFE.—The battle of life, in by far the greater number of cases, must necessarily be fought up hill; and to win it without a struggle were perhaps to win it without honor. If there were no difficulties, there would be no success; if there were nothing to struggle for, there would be nothing to be achieved. Difficulties may intimidate the weak, but they act only as a stimulus to men of pluck and resolution. All experience of life, indeed, serves to prove that the impediments thrown in the way of human advancement may for the most part be overcome by steady good conduct, honest zeal, activity, perseverance, and above all by a determined resolution to surmount difficulties, and stand up manfully against misfortune.

Men who think that everything can be bought with their own wealth, have been bought themselves first.

Domestic Department.

BACON AND SAUSAGE.

The following excellent directions for curing Bacon and making Sausage, were written for the "Valley Farmer" several years ago. We re-publish them, and hope our readers will try them:

BACON.

In the first place, the hog must be well fattened, and not too fat. The weather must be at freezing point, or below would be preferred. The hogs should hang out in the weather all night, and be cut up the day after they are killed; salted in bulk, each kind to itself, with Kanawha salt. Rub one table-spoonful of saltpetre on the rind of each ham, let it remain in that condition about three weeks, then take the meat up and clean off all the salt, wash the hams in clear water; then pack them closely in a tight cask; immerse them in a strong pickle made of alum salt, red pepper tea, and sugar, with half pound of saltpetre to the 1000 lbs. of hams or shoulders. It is not important about the quantity of sugar, as I never could see that it does any good; but it is the fashion, so put it in. It is like the Dutchman's physic, if it does no harm, it will do no good. After the hams have laid in pickle three or four weeks, in moderate weather, longer if frozen, take them out, and pepper the flesh side with Cayenne pepper; hang them with the hock down, and smoke them every day with hickory wood, until the first of May; take them down, and give them a heavy coat of whitewash, or, what is better, give them an artificial rind made of rye flour in the form of a thick paste, and coat the flesh side and hang them, and smoke every day during the year, or at least every damp day. Porkhouse hams are not so good as country hams for making good bacon. The hogs are brought from a distance to the cities, and are killed on the decline, in a feverish condition, slovenly and savagely butchered, thrown in large heaps, salted hot at the bone, and frequently sour; smoked rapidly, and doctored with creosote and pyrocritic acid. Care should be taken that meat is not heated in smoking. If the smoke-house is low, the meat must not be hung over the fire, but a pit dug three feet deep to put the fire in. I have cured hams in this manner, and sold them readily for 12½ cents per lb. in Philadelphia and Louisville, when good, common hams were selling for 3½ and 4 cents. That was in 1841 and 1842, when produce was so much depressed.

SAUSAGE.

Select the tender pieces of sausage meat and one-fourth of the quantity of back-bone fat, and cut them up together, and pick out all the fibers, by running a case knife frequently through the heap; then season with pepper, sage, and salt, with a little saltpetre.—Fry some of it and taste. Should it have too much or too little of either condiment, add more, but reserve some fresh meat to correct an over portion of either kind of seasoning. Now knead all the mass together, with red pepper tea; stuff it in caseings well cleaned and prepared; hang them up; smoke three days, and remove them out of the smoke, as more will spoil them. Fry the sausage with pickled pork or middling lean. It makes an excellent relish to boil them and eat cold. I will remind those who may try the directions to have oysters on the table at the same to save their sausage.

S.

St. Louis County, Mo.

A Cure for Scurvy.—Plenty of open-air exercise, and tepid bathing; fresh animal and vegetable food; and the free use of ripe fruits and lemon juice. Lemon juice appears to be almost a specific, few cases resisting its influence. About half a pint should be taken daily, pure, or diluted with water. Cold, damp and impure air should be avoided.

How to Have Good Cider.

Prof. Horsford, of Harvard University, has recently published a recipe for improving and preserving cider, by means of which the progress of the vinous and acetic fermentations may be arrested at pleasure, and the cider preserved in just such a state as may be desired. A correspondent of the "Boston Journal" says:

Put the new cider into clean casks or barrels, and allow it to ferment from one to three weeks, according as the weather is cool or warm. When it has attained to lively fermentation, add to each gallon three-fourths of a pound of white sugar, and let the whole ferment again until it possesses nearly the brisk, pleasant taste which it is desirable should be permanent. Pour out a quart of the cider and mix it with one-quarter of an ounce of sulphite of lime for every gallon the cask contains. Stir until it is intimately mixed, and pour the emulsion into the liquid. Agitate the contents of the cask thoroughly for a few moments, then let it rest, that the cider may settle. Fermentation will be arrested at once, and will not be resumed. It may be bottled in the course of a few weeks, or it may be allowed to remain in the cask and used on draft. If bottled, it will become a sparkling cider—better than what is called champagne wine.

Prof. Horsford, of Cambridge, was the first to use sulphite of lime for this purpose, and to him is due the credit of first calling attention to its usefulness.—It is in no respect deleterious, as the sulphate, into which the sulphite is changed by the liberation of sulphurous acid, is entirely insoluble, and remains at the bottom of the vessel.

The writer has cider prepared in this way two years since, which has remained unchanged, and is now a beverage of unsurpassed excellence. The sulphite of lime, not the sulphate, must be used.

Remedy for Burns, &c.—Take any quantity of red clover heads, boil them until the strength is out, then strain off the liquor and boil it down to the thickness of molasses, and when cold bottle for use.

The Best Means of Clearing Coffee.—Pour into the coffee the white and the crushed shell of an egg. Let it stand ten minutes, and it will be bright and clear as water.

Drs. Behrend and Sieber recommend the medicinal use of sugar as of great value in diarrhea—one in a child aged three years, and another to a child aged four years—in which half an ounce of powdered white sugar given every hour, soon gave a favorable turn to symptoms of extreme gravity which had long resisted all the ordinary means of cure.

To Dye Silk Black.—Impregnate the material with a solution of acetate of iron, and then boil in a decoction of madder and logwood.

If you are troubled to get soft water for washing, fill a tub or barrel half full with wood ashes, and fill it up with water, so that you may have lye whenever you want it. A gallon of strong lye put into a great kettle of hard water, will make it as soft as rain water. Some people use pearlash or potash; but this costs something, and is very apt to injure the texture of the cloth.

Do not let knives be dropped into hot dish water.—It is a good plan to have a large tin pot to wash them in, just high enough to wash the blades, without wetting the handles.

To Fry Chickens.—Cut up the chickens, and season them with salt and Cayenne pepper; roll them in flour, and fry them in hot lard; when the whole are fried, pour off the lard, and put in a quarter of a pound of butter, one teacupful of cream, a little flour, and some scalded parsley chopped fine, for the sauce.

Editor's Table.

Who are Our Agents.

All postmasters, and friends of rural improvement, are authorized agents for the "Valley Farmer."—Reader, if you desire to promote rural improvement, disseminate valuable rural intelligence, act as agent—form a club, however small, for the "Valley Farmer." We give no certificates of agency, but ask every one to act as agent, and aid us in our labors, if they approve our course. Don't wait for some one to call on you—but send us a list of names yourself from among your neighbors. Now is the time to begin the work. Recollect, if your time has expired, this is the last number we shall send until the subscription is renewed.

Terms, Address, &c.

All letters must be addressed hereafter to NORMAN J. COLMAN, St. Louis, Mo.—the office at Louisville, Ky. having been discontinued, for the present, for mail subscribers. Call subscribers can obtain numbers from Mr. Gunter, at Louisville, as before.

The "Valley Farmer" will be sent to any address one year, for One Dollar—four subscribers, Three Dollars. Any one sending the names of Two NEW Subscribers and Two Dollars, shall have a copy one year free.

Be particular in remitting to write the name of your post-office and State—we can't give you the proper credit if you forget this.

The January number will NOT be sent to any whose subscriptions expire with this number, until the subscription is renewed. We hope this will be borne in mind by every reader. The rule is adopted to prevent mistakes in future mailing.

Every reader is earnestly solicited to renew as promptly as possible, and to get two or three of his neighbors to join him—thus making the subscription lighter for himself. This is the time for the friends of an agricultural journal to exhibit their friendship.

Now is the Time to Subscribe.

Yes, now is the time. "Delays are dangerous." The Thirteenth Volume has closed. The Fourteenth Volume will commence the first of January. None will receive that number whose subscription has expired with this. We have been compelled to adopt this as an invariable rule. Those who do renew, will receive the January number promptly. Too many are in the habit of delaying to remit until some of the numbers cannot be supplied. We like promptness—so do you in your business transactions. Then remit NOW, and you will feel better, and we shall. Try to send a few names with your own, to strengthen and cheer us in our labors. The farmers of the West should feel a deep interest in the "Valley Farmer." For more than thirteen years past it has been their faithful friend.—The more unfavorable the times for its circulation, the stronger should its TRUE friends rally to its support. Friends, NOW is the time to act. Now is the time to renew your subscriptions. Now is the time to induce your neighbors to join you in a club. We have full faith that you WILL act promptly in all these respects, and we shall wait patiently to hear from you.

Our Brethren of the Press

Will confer a great favor by giving notice that the Fourteenth Year and Volume of the "Valley Farmer," will commence on the first of January, and that now is the time to subscribe for that volume. They can speak of our journal according to its merits. The FARMER is not a rival to any paper. There is not another Agricultural, Horticultural or Stock Journal published in St. Louis. With politics, news, or sectarianism, we have nothing to do. Our periodical is entirely devoted to the advancement of the Agricultural, Horticultural and Stock interests of the Great Valley of the Mississippi river. As Agriculture is the foundation of all other interests—the more it is advanced, the more other interests are benefitted, and we hope and believe that our brethren of the Press will generously give us the aid of their influence for the forthcoming volume.

Improve—Not Retrograde.

Our readers must not think because our circulation must necessarily be diminished on account of the state of the times, that the "Valley Farmer" will be the less interesting and valuable. On the contrary, we shall labor arduously to make the forthcoming volume more valuable to the practical farmer than it has ever been. Having conducted the paper for the past six years (and in what manner we leave it to our readers to judge), we feel that we know the wants of the farming community—and we shall strive to supply those wants. We do not, it is true, furnish as many "nick-knacks" for our patrons as some of our Eastern contemporaries; but our fare is healthful, if it is plain. It is such as we believe farmers like, such as they need, such as will do them the most good. We do believe every farmer will derive more than the value of the dollar by reading this journal one year. And we feel and believe that a large majority of our patrons will promptly renew their subscriptions, and send along as many new names as possible. We have greatly reduced our terms for small clubs. Every one renewing will find it to his interest to send two or three names with his own.

OFFICE AT LOUISVILLE, KY., DISCONTINUED FOR THE PRESENT.—Kentucky and Missouri, being both the seats of war, our circulation must, necessarily, be considerably reduced, and it will be necessary to reduce our expenses proportionally. As the business of the paper can all be transacted at one office, we have determined to concentrate it at the St. Louis office for the present. Our Kentucky and Indiana patrons can as well mail their subscriptions to St. Louis as Louisville. We will be responsible for all remittances carefully inclosed. As this will save us a good deal of expense and trouble, we hope our patrons will cheerfully consent to the change. The amount thus saved we can expend in rendering the "Valley Farmer"

more useful and interesting to its readers. We hope to receive the continued support of our Kentucky and Indiana friends, and promise to render the "Valley Farmer" a better and more instructive agricultural and horticultural journal the ensuing year than it has ever before been.

Mr. A. Gunter, 99 Third street, Louisville, Ky. will still be supplied with copies as soon as they are issued, and those who have been in the habit of obtaining their copies from him at his book store, can still do so.

City University of St. Louis.—Parents having children to educate, cannot place them in better hands than with Mr. Edward Wyman, President of the above named institution. Mr. Wyman has the reputation of being one of the best educators in the West. Having patronized him, we can fully, and do fully endorse that reputation. He not only has the education—but he knows how to train scholars so as to make them useful citizens. His heart is engaged in the work of education. Those who know Mr. Wyman, know that whatever he undertakes he does thoroughly. We say to all having children to send to school, patronize the City University. Those wishing circulars should address Edward Wyman, St. Louis, Mo.

Big Head and Big Jaw.—We have received from Dr. Geo. H. Dadd, the eminent Veterinary Surgeon, an excellent communication on the above subjects, which will appear in our January number. These diseases are quite prevalent, and the article will be read with interest. Dr. Dadd is at the head of the Veterinary College at Cincinnati, Ohio, and those wishing to acquire veterinary knowledge, can go to no better quarter in the United States.

Fruit Growers' Meeting.

We hope the Fruit Growers of the West will notice the call of the Missouri Fruit Growers' Association, and use all proper endeavors to be present at the meeting in St. Louis, on the second Tuesday of January. Every Fruit Grower of the Mississippi Valley should feel interested in this Association, and give the aid of his experience in the cultivation of fruit. These meetings should be more largely attended. The most valuable information is always derived at them. We have been planting and cultivating fruit too long in ignorance of the proper varieties to plant, and the best culture to bestow on them when planted. Let us reform altogether. Pomological knowledge only will produce the reformation, and this can be acquired at Pomological meetings.

A new species of rye, indigenous to California, and remarkable for the largeness, plumpness, and beauty of its grain, has been exhibited in Washington. Mr. Isaac Newton, the newly appointed Superintendent of the Agricultural Bureau, connected with the Department of the Interior, has received a small supply of the grain, and will distribute it among the farmers in different parts of the country. Its yield is said to be very great, reaching even on poor land fifty bushels to the acre.

A New Vegetable.—There has lately been exhibited at several meetings of the Royal Horticultural Society, a new vegetable which promises to become a permanent institution among kitchen garden crops. It is a cabbage in the form of Brussels sprouts. The stem is about a foot high, bearing on its summit a good sized hearted cabbage of the ordinary character; but the stem is covered with small cabbages about the size of a small dessert apple, and these, when cooked, form an excellent dish, partaking of the flavor of a nice summer cabbage, and without the strong Savoy flavor which distinguishes the Brussels sprouts.

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☞ WANTED!—Any one having a FARM, within 12 miles of St. Louis, with from 80 to 100 acres under cultivation, with moderate improvements, can hear of a good tenant by addressing D. W. at this office. dec61

EARLY CANADA POTATOES.—The subscriber has a large quantity of this early and valuable new variety of Potato for sale; and as they should be planted in February, should now be procured. To suit the times, the price is only One Dollar per bushel. Also, some pure PEACH BLOW Potatoes, at 50 Cents per bushel. T. R. ALLEN, Allenton, Mo.